Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
At this point, do you support a one-year extension in the federalization of local immigration?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of September 7, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

9 Dead
Nine people died and more than 30 were missing after Superferry 9 turned on its side early Sunday off Zamboanga del Norte.

ASIA...Page 15

New Show
Dr. Mehmet Oz has a new talk show, with a mission of making Americans healthier one at a time.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

War-bereaved families conclude 5-day pilgrimage. **PAGE 6**
Star Sands Plaza posts triple sales after store takeover. **PAGE 7**

Missing surfer is feared dead

Water, aerial search fails to locate missing Japanese

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A missing Japanese surfer is feared dead after a water and aerial search surrounding the beach at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa failed to locate him since late Sunday afternoon.

As of yesterday afternoon, 31-year-old Hirofumi Matusumoto of Chinatown could not be found, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong.

See MISSING on Page 4

SMOKING IN THE MILITARY:
An old habit dies hard

AP

In this Nov. 23, 2007 file photo, a U.S. Army soldier from the 3rd Brigade combat team of 101st Airborne Division smokes a cigarette during a patrol mission in the town of Owesap, 20 kilometers (about 12,4 miles) south of Baghdad, Iraq.

By DEB RIECHMANN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq (AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur had his signature corncob pipe. Soldiers got cigarettes in their C-rations during World War II. Even today, America's war on tobacco seems to have largely bypassed the military.

See SMOKING on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Four-year-old Gaby San Nicolas, right bottom, rides a shopping cart as he tags along with his parents and an older brother at the National Office Supply along Beach Road in Garapan yesterday afternoon. Many last-minute shoppers crowded school supply stores yesterday in time for today's opening of 20 public schools in the CNMI.

10,700 kids return to public schools today

RELATED NEWS
Lowest budget ever for PSS in last 10 years.
PAGE 3

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System will welcome about 10,700 returning and new students in all its 20 campuses on three islands today.

Students from kindergarten to 12th grade will be handled by a little over 500 classroom teachers that comprise the PSS instructional staff for School

See CLASSES on Page 4

PUC junks increase in LEAC rate

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has junked the proposed 12-percent increase in the levelized energy adjustment clause rate, choosing instead to extend the current LEAC rate for another six months.

In a decision adopted during Thursday's meeting, the commission established that effective Oct. 1, 2009, the existing LEAC rate—$0.20147—will remain until March 31, 2010.

Georgetown Consulting Group earlier recommended that the LEAC rate be increased by 12 percent, from the current factor of $0.20147

See PUC on Page 4

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Local

Teen allegedly steals laptop, hides in closet

Police arrested a teenager who allegedly stole a laptop from a barracks and then tried to hide in another barracks' closet in San Antonio Saturday afternoon.

Marvin Ringlen, 18, was arrested for burglary, theft, and criminal trespass.

Police officers allegedly recovered from Ringlen a Gateway laptop worth $900 that belonged to a 27-year-old female Chinese.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that police officers responded to a reported burglary in progress at the old Michigan Garment Factory in San Antonio Saturday at 1:32pm.

The victim told police officers that she saw the suspect run inside the barracks and was hiding in one of the units.

Witnesses tipped off the officers that the suspect was last seen entering a particular unit.

With the consent of the barracks' owner, police searched the unit and found Ringlen hiding in the closet.

According to the victim, she

See TEEN on Page 4

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Tourism Tuesday

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

September 8, 2009

Marketing Highlight

In Fiscal Year 2008, 8 percent of visitors to the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) came from mainland China. On average, these visitors stay four nights and spend more money on-island than visitors from some other source markets. They also tend to visit more than one island when they come, as many who arrive on Saipan also take advantage of gaming opportunities on Tinian.

To attract more Chinese visitors, vibrant images of the NMI are making their way through downtown Shanghai through vivid bus advertising. Since June 2009, buses on two Shanghai bus routes have been carrying advertisement of these tropical islands to city folks who may be looking for a quick escape to paradise. The advertising is slated to run through November 2009 to help fill the Shanghai-Saipan charter flights now operating twice a week. The campaign is a joint undertaking of Marianas Visitors Authority, Century Tours, and Tinian Dynasty Holiday.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Lowest budget ever for PSS in last 10 years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Compared to past years since Fiscal Year 1999, the Public School System received this fiscal year the lowest amount ever allocated by the local government to the islands' education sector.

PSS, classified as among the essential departments of the government, got only $35 million this year, the lowest appropriation it has ever received in the last 10 years, according to its latest report in *Students First*, the PSS newsletter.

PSS data showed that in FY 1999, PSS was allotted $37.7 million in local funds; in 2000, $36.2 million; 2001, $37.2 million; 2002, $37.2 million; 2003, $37.2 million; 2004, $37.2 million; 2005, $37.2 million; 2006, $37.2 million; 2007, $36.7 million; and 2008, $35.8 million.

This Fiscal Year 2009, PSS was appropriated just a little over $35 million for its 20 public schools and nearly 11,000 students on three islands.

PSS revealed that the Commonwealth government's contribution to the total funding of PSS has varied between 55 and 70 percent over the last 10 years.

The continuous drop in the budget for public schools has affected the delivery of services in the classrooms and other programs such as the Head Start and kindergarten programs.

The Head Start is now limited to accommodating just 462 children from the previous years' 579 enrollees.

In the kindergarten programs, the shortage of teachers in many schools has prevented principals from accepting all enrollees in a given year.

The limited local funding has had the most impact on local students, PSS said.

In a 2008 report, it was learned that the per-pupil allocation for CNMI public school students—combining both local and federal funds—is far below that of students in the U.S. mainland, with mainland students getting $9,580 per-pupil allocation; the CNMI only gets $5,821.

The fiscal year 2008 per-pupil allocation also showed the lowest ever recorded by PSS in 14 years.

PSS said it was in 2002 when the CNMI economy was hit hard, creating a domino effect on the delivery of services including critical areas like education. It was also in the same year that the gap in per-student allocation widened by almost 50 percent, with CNMI per-pupil funding level at $4,909 while U.S. schools had $8,077.

BY BARRING TESTIMONY OF VICTIM

'Naraja's ruling will set a harsh precedent for victim advocacy'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"Civilized nations do not warehouse crime victims to secure their presence at trial. Such an equation is cynical and inhumane at the least."

Thus said assistant attorney general Matthew Meyer in protesting Superior Court presiding judge Robert Naraja's decision to bar the prosecution from using the deposition testimony of Yahui Tian, who is now in China and is reportedly paralyzed as a result of stabbing injuries.

If the court requires the government to stop witnesses who are victims of violent crime from leaving the island to obtain medical care for injuries, "it will be setting a harsh precedent in terms of victim advocacy," Meyer said.

John Namauleg is on trial for attempted second-degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, and aggravated assault and battery. He allegedly attacked Tian with a knife while the victim was about to take shower in her barracks' bathroom in Afetna on the evening of Feb. 24, 2008.

The trial is on hold after the government appealed Naraja's decision to the CNMI Supreme Court.

In his ruling, Naraja agreed with Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke, counsel for Namauleg, who objected to the prosecution's use of Tian's deposition testimony on the ground that it was barred because the government failed to prove that the witness was available.

Deposition refers to the taking of the testimony of a party or witness under oath before a court reporter, in a place away from the courtroom before trial. This testimony can be read into the record if the witness is not available during the trial.

The prosecution claimed it has a video deposition where the defendant had a full opportunity to rigorously cross-examine Tian.

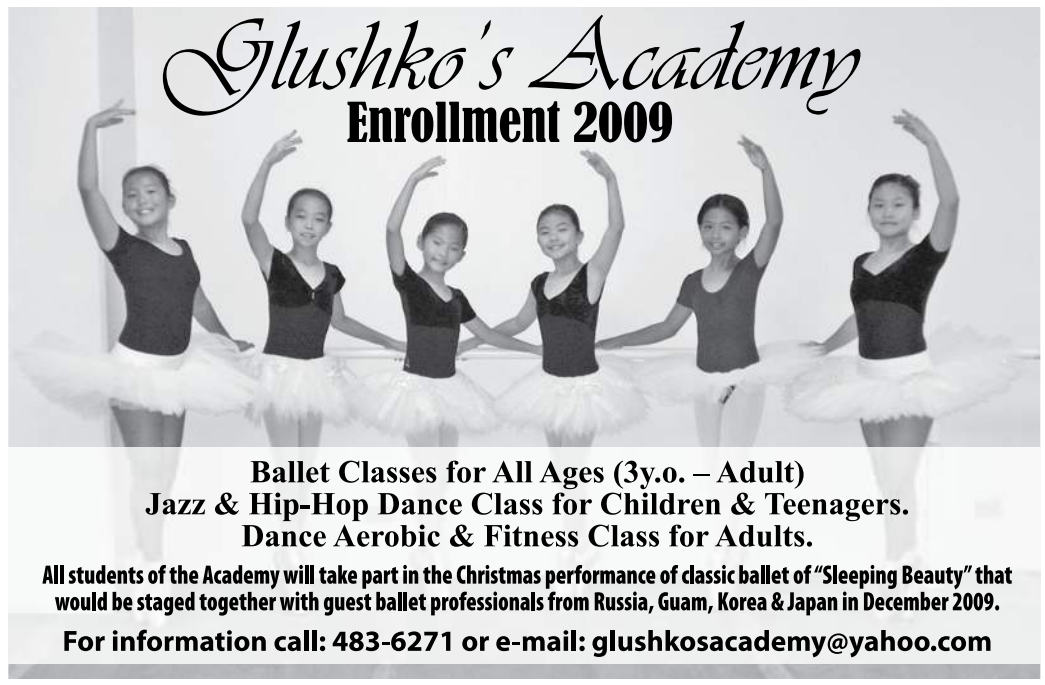
In this case, Meyer said, Naraja's decision will require the government to restrain the freedom of crime victims, regardless of medical condition, solely to secure their presence at trial.

"Consequently, health and well-being will be sacrificed in order to comply with an unreasonable requirement of the court. Such a policy makes it unreasonably difficult to prosecute cases involving nonresident victims of violent crime," Meyer said.

The prosecutor said their office acted reasonably in the circumstances, but the Superior Court misapplied the law requiring the government to "not just meet, but go above and beyond the requirements of case-law, and such is clearly erroneous."

Tian, a former garment worker, is reportedly now paralyzed and needs round the clock care. She needs help to dress and cannot control her bowels.

The prosecution said that bringing Tian to Saipan to testify in the trial of Namauleg is a "brutal trip" as it would mean a journey of several hours by bus from a remote village in northern China in the province of Jilin and several flight transfers.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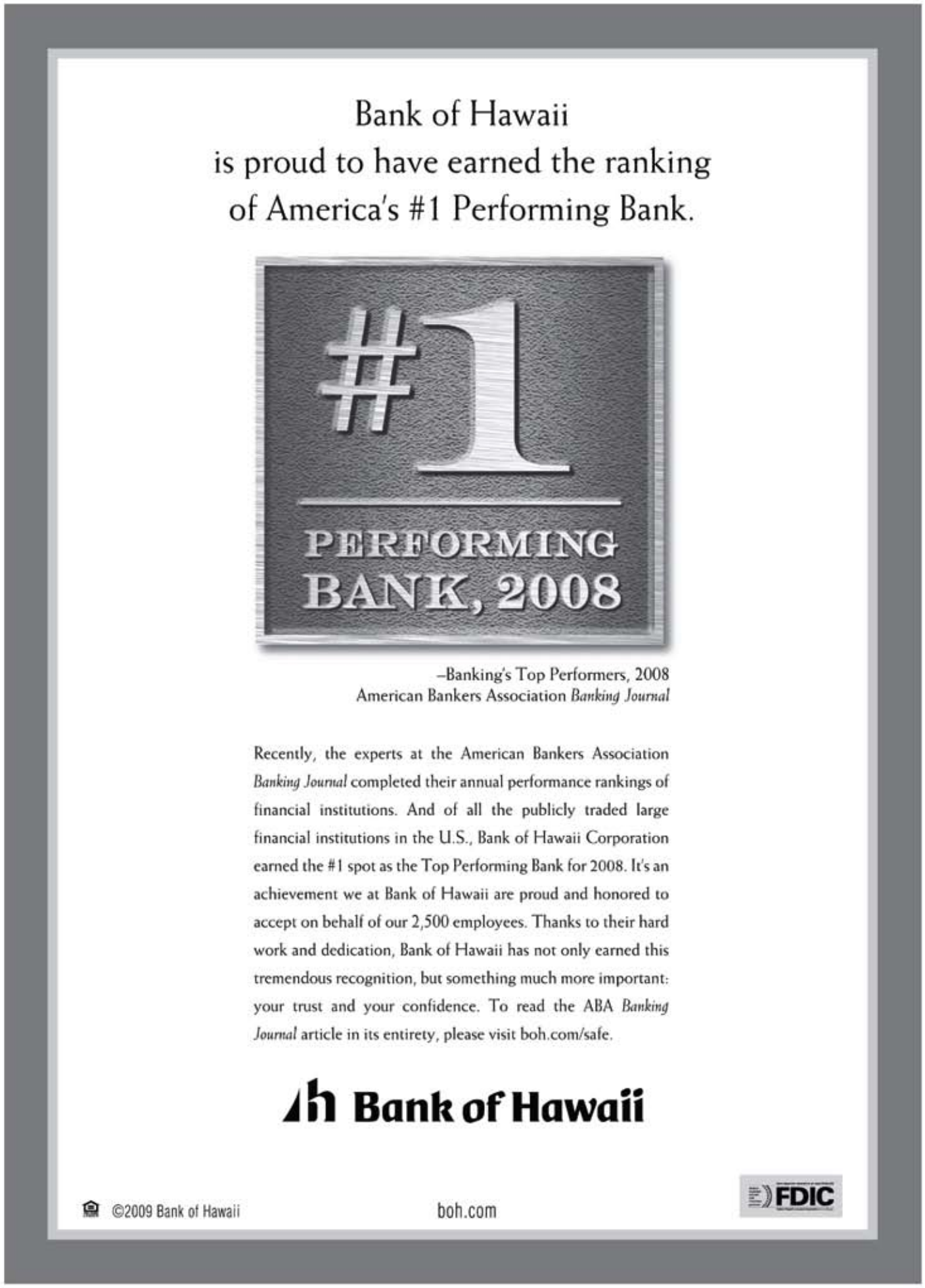
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Recently, the experts at the American Bankers Association Banking Journal completed their annual performance rankings of financial institutions. And of all the publicly traded large financial institutions in the U.S., Bank of Hawaii Corporation earned the #1 spot as the Top Performing Bank for 2008. It's an achievement we at Bank of Hawaii are proud and honored to accept on behalf of our 2,500 employees. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, Bank of Hawaii has not only earned this tremendous recognition, but something much more important: your trust and your confidence. To read the ABA Banking Journal article in its entirety, please visit boh.com/safe.
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FDIC

SMOKING

From Page 1

Now a proposal to make the forces smoke-free is drawing strong reactions from troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, even though the Pentagon itself says any ban is a long way off.

The troops' fears—and, in some cases, hopes—were triggered by a study commissioned by the Pentagon and the Veterans Affairs Department that recommends moving toward a tobacco-free military, perhaps in about 20 years.

"Your nerves get all rattled and you need something to calm you down," said Staff Sgt. Jerry Benson of San Bernadino, California, with the 5th Stryker Brigade in southern Afghanistan.

Benson, a tall, thin redhead with a buzz cut, said his first attempt to quit smoking was foiled by stress from a roadside bombing in Iraq.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates seems to agree.

"He knows that the situation they are confronting is stressful enough as it is," said his press secretary, Geoff Morrell. "I don't think he is interested in adding to the stress levels by taking away one of the few outlets they may have to relieve stress."

He said Gates is not planning any ban, but is reviewing the study by the Institute of Medicine, which provides independent advice to policymakers, health professionals and the public, to see if steps can be taken toward having a smoke-free force some day.

U.S. military personnel and veterans interviewed by The Associated Press had strong opinions about life in the military without cigarettes, cigars and chewing tobacco.

Some said it would cut medical costs and make the force healthier, while eliminating smoking breaks would increase productivity. Others said it would dampen morale and reduce recruitment to the all-volunteer military.

Nearly all, however, said it was impractical and probably would never happen.

"It's an outrage," said Staff Sgt. Joe Dunn, 32. "I've been smoking for about 15 years and being forced to stop—not on my own terms—is something I'd have a hard time dealing with."

Dunn, of Gastonia, North Carolina, spoke during a cigarette break at the dusty Forward Operating Base Falcon south of Baghdad.

"I'm a fairly high-strung individual to start with," Dunn said. "If I were forced to quit, I'd probably be unbearable."

While smoking has declined in the U.S. civilian population, it remains high in the military despite various measures such as designating smoking areas.

In 2005, a third of the active-duty military smoked compared with a fifth of the adult U.S. population, the Institute of Medicine study said. Tobacco use in the military declined overall from 1980 to 2005, but is now reflecting the effects of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Smoking rates among military personnel returning from both war zones may be 50 percent higher than among those not deployed, according to the study, which argues that the military has not tackled the problem as a priority.

To the troops who say smoking relaxes them, Ellen Hahn, an expert, explains that their stress is also a result of tobacco, because nicotine acts as both a stimulant and a depressant.

"For people who are in stressful situations much like the military, if you haven't had a cigarette in two hours, you're going to feel stressed out and irritable, and it's mostly because of the withdrawal," said Hahn, a professor who runs the University of Kentucky's Tobacco Policy Research Program.

"Nicotine is one of those drugs that both stimulates you and calms you down when you need it," she said.

So smoking does ease stress, but also creates it, she said.

Smokers are easy to find at the Falcon base, perched on railings in the designated smoking areas, using soft-drink cans for ashtrays.

"Smoking has been proven bad for your health, but it's a choice. It's not illegal. Drunk driving is illegal," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Alexander Roehm, 23, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who smokes 10 to 20 cigarettes a day and also chews tobacco. "Look at the movies. Smoking is one of the things you always see with Vietnam and World War II films. In World War II, smoking was a big thing. My grandpa used to say that cigarettes were one of the big things that they were real happy to get. It was just something to do."

Inside a smoke-free building at the base, however, Maj. Mathew Fitch, engineer for the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, was cheering the prospect of a smoking ban.

The 40-year-old nonsmoker said cigarettes not only impair a soldier's health, but burn up productivity because every hour or two, somebody goes out and rounds up buddies for a puff.

"A smoke break can be a 20-minute affair," said Fitch, of Charlotte, North Carolina.

At Kandahar Air Field in southern Afghanistan, cigarette butts litter a courtyard.

Army Staff Sgt. Bob Flores, with the 5th Stryker Brigade from Fort Lewis, Washington, said he and his wife have agreed to quit together—pushed by their 8-year-old son—but only when he gets home.

"It's not the best time now—the stress of being here, and her being home alone," he said.

A look at smoking in the military

Highlights of a study commissioned by the Pentagon and the Veterans Affairs Department to combat tobacco use in the military.

Findings:

- Tobacco is used by fewer than 20 percent of Americans compared with more than 30 percent of active-duty military personnel and about 22 percent of veterans.
- Tobacco use in the military has risen since 1998, threatening to reverse steady declines for several decades.
- The rate of smoking among military personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan may be 50 percent higher than the rate of those who didn't go there.
- The Defense Department spends more than $1.6 billion a year on tobacco-related medical care, increased hospitalizations and lost days of work.
- In 2008, the Veterans Affairs Department spent more than $5 billion treating veterans with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which is linked to tobacco use.

Recommendations:

- Establish a timeline to ban all tobacco use on military installations, starting with military academies and officer training programs in both universities and the military, followed by new recruits and then active-duty personnel.
- Stop discounting tobacco products in military commissaries and exchanges and eventually stop selling them altogether.
- Prohibit tobacco use anywhere on military installations.
- Remove federal legislation that requires VA facilities to set up designated smoking areas, allowing them to become smoke-free.
- Engage top officials at the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments to implement and enforce comprehensive tobacco-control programs. ***(The Associated Press)***

■■■

Source: June 2009 report, "Combating Tobacco In Military and Veteran Populations," by the Institute of Medicine in Washington. The institute was chartered in 1970 as part of the National Academy of Sciences.

PUC

From Page 1

per kilowatt-hour to $0.22618 per kWh. The proposed rate hike is to reflect the increase in oil prices that have occurred since the LEAC rate was set in January this year.

CPUC, in its decision, said the rate element revenues shall be solely for the specific purposes authorized, such as $0.18807 per kWh element for fuel oil costs, generation lubricant costs, transportation and handling costs, taxes and other associated costs as billed by the fuel supplier.

Of the existing LEAC rate, $0.01064 per kWh is to be used to fund variations in projected fuel prices that result in unrecovered cost, and $0.00276 per kWh to fund commission invoices for regulatory fees and expenses and for the procurement or employment of financial and technical expertise.

The commission also authorized and directed CUC to use about $2.9 million from its generation element reserves to cover the difference between the estimated cost of fuel during the LEAC cycle.

The commission instituted in December 2008 a new fuel adjustment rate protocol for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., restructuring the existing CUC fuel adjustment rate into LEAC.

The first LEAC rate was put into place on Jan. 1, 2009 and covered an interim three-month period of January to March 2009. The second rate covers the period of April 1 to Sept. 30, 2009.

Saipan Tribune learned that the first two LEAC rates focused primarily on certain key variables such as projected kWh sales, estimated fuel use and fuel pricing, regulatory costs, and capital for efficiency improvements.

TEEN

From Page 2

was cooking in her barracks when she saw the suspect open the front door of her unit and took her laptop on the table.

The victim followed Ringlen, who ran to another barracks near her residence.

When the victim lost sight of the suspect in the area, she called the police.

The victim positively identified Ringlen as the person who stole her computer. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CLASSES

From Page 1

Year 2009-2010.

The start of the school year will see 15 operational school buses, with 10 on Saipan, three on Tinian and two on Rota.

Bus drivers will start their routes at 6:30am today, with elementary school children the priority. Parents have already been provided the PSS bus riders' policy as well as the schedule of their children.

In her recent report to the Board of Education, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said that all school campuses have met the health and environment standards required by the local Division of Environmental Quality and the Bureau of Environmental Health.

The system has also created its own task force that will monitor the potential spread of the swine flu virus in campuses and take charge of disseminating timely advisories. PSS was declared under Phase 6 alert for the H1N1 flu virus on July 21, which means a flu pandemic is already underway.

Highly qualified

The new school year will open with 69 percent of PSS teaching personnel already considered highly qualified. The remaining teachers are expected to get their certifications and pass the requirements within the school year. In order to become HQT, teachers must have a degree, valid certifications, and must have passed the Praxis tests.

During the summer, PSS staff and employees took advantage of various institutes and workshops to upgrade and better equip themselves for student learning.

Free meals

For the whole month of September, PSS also laid down the choices and food menus for the children's free meals, which are prepared under the nutritionist's dietary guidelines.

Saipan Tribune learned that all lunch meals will be served with 6 oz. milk for Head Start children and 8 oz. milk for kindergarten to 12th grade. Cold cereal options are assorted fruits and milk offered daily for breakfast.

Commissioner Sablan assured the Board of Education that all vendors on three islands were properly vetted to ensure the prompt delivery of services to students.

To ensure that parents are aware of their kids' presence in schools, PSS disseminated to the public the 180-school days schedule as approved by the Education Board.

Minor repairs

Commissioner Sablan said all public schools have done a good job of completing minor repairs and ground maintenance in all campuses, with the cooperation of their respective PTAs.

Although many schools still need more air-conditioning units, she said many of these are in the process of being bought.

School administrators also assured proper monitoring of the school's utility consumption pursuant to the energy cost-saving measures adopted by PSS.

Sablan said all schools will benefit from the $32 million in expected stimulus funding that will be used for major renovations and construction, procurement of necessary school materials and equipment, as well as restoring over a hundred positions in public schools.

For today's opening of classes, Associate Commissioner for Instruction and Curriculum Jackie Quitugua will be on Rota while Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services Peter Le'au will be on Tinian.

Sablan and other schools officers are expected to visit Saipan schools as they open regular classes today.

MISSING

From Page 1

Tarkong said the search for Matusumoto will continue until further notice.

DPS closed the beach surrounding Sugar Dock. No one is allowed to go fishing, surfing or swimming in the area due to the rescue operations and hazardous surf.

Tarkong said police investigation showed that on Sunday at 4pm, Matusumoto was surfing with a friend behind Aquarius Hotel.

The strong current pulled the two outside the reef. Matusumoto shouted to his friend that he needed help as he tried to paddle back toward the shore.

The two attempted to fight the current by paddling south. After 30 minutes, Matusumuto's friend was able to catch a wave and paddled back to shore.

When the friend looked back, he could not see Matsumoto so he called police.

Tarkong said police officers responded to the scene around 5:20pm, followed by the DPS Boating Safety rescue team.

Two police officers borrowed two jet skis from the Big Boyz concession stand and proceeded to the scene. Three other Boating Safety officers joined the search on board a DPS Zodiac boat.

The officers searched the surrounding area, but they failed to find the surfer. They called off the search at 8pm as it was already too dark.

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter took up the search from 9pm until midnight. The search resumed early yesterday morning.

The U.S. Coast Guard dispatched a helicopter and its cutter, *Washington*, to assist local teams composed of the DPS Boating Safety rescue team, Emergency Management Office, and DPS Fire Search and Rescue Unit.

Earlier on Sunday, DPS Boating Safety Unit responded to an overturned canoe at Sugar Dock and brought the victim to shore.

A local surfer, Robert Jordan, reportedly assisted the victim.

Sugar Dock is a favorite area for many surfers, especially when there is high surf. Many surfers had been stranded in the area in the past but most are rescued.

'Creation of worker's compensation fund untimely'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Although the Board of Education has not specifically adopted any official comments on a bill that proposes to create a Worker's Compensation Fund, board members are opposed to the bill, saying the idea is untimely at this time.

BOE chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita told *Saipan Tribune* that the board did not act on the issue because information was relayed to them that the bill is currently undergoing further changes in the Legislature.

There was, however, a general discussion that perhaps "now is not the time to place further constraints on the already diminished budgets of the various government agencies and departments," she said.

The Public School System has not been spared from budget cuts due to declining government revenues and collections. PSS was allocated just $35 million in fiscal year 2009. It has nearly 11,000 students in 20 public schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

House Bill 16-257 proposes to establish a Worker's Compensation Fund by requiring all Commonwealth government agencies to pool together one-half percent of their operating budgets to cover all present and future worker's compensation claims of government employees.

It was earlier found that there has not been a worker's compensation appropriation to fund the compensation payments made to government workers who are injured on the job. Consequently, the Workers Compensation Commission has been using the worker's compensation funds paid by private employers to fund the compensation payments of private and government employees, which is against the law.

In the absence of WCC funds at this time, Blanco-Maratita urged the establishment of safety measures at the job sites to protect workers.

"Perhaps what should be happening in order to protect government employees from workplace injuries is to enforce the use of safety measures at the job sites, require that proper safety gears are used, and that the employees are given more training in safety in the workplace," she said.

The board chairwoman said this might go further to reduce costs by protecting workers.

No government payments have been remitted to the government employee's self-insurance fund. As a result, hundreds of government employees have no accident insurance coverage at present.

The NMI Retirement Fund gives employers the option to be self-insured.

New building safety regs in effect

The Department of Public Works has adopted new building safety regulations that will enable the CNMI to qualify for federal grants for energy enhancement.

The regulations provide for the adoption of the International Building Code both for residential and commercial buildings and its energy code provisions.

It also provides for the adoption of the Tropical Energy Code and its energy code provisions, updates the schedule of fees, and updates seismic and typhoon standards.

It also clarifies permit, certification and enforcement provisions.

It became effective Sept. 7, or after 10 working days following its publication in the Commonwealth Register on Aug. 27.

This means the CNMI is now qualified for $18.6 million in federal energy-related economic stimulus grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that could be used to enhance energy efficiency.

The new regulations bring the CNMI building codes up to date as the construction industry becomes even more modernized.

The new regulations also recognize and adopt new seismic and typhoon safety standards and codes, provide for electronic filings, hearings, and for a transparent system.

Acting building safety code official Martin C. Sablan certified the new regulations on Aug. 21 and were filed and recorded by Esther M. San Nicolas of the Commonwealth Register on Aug. 27. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Judge says no new trial required for Pelisamen

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Whether former Superior Court judge Timothy H. Bellas lied or not in his testimony in the jury trial of his former client, Luis Kaipat Pelisamen, it is not sufficient ground to conduct another trial.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ruled that even if Bellas' statement about Pelisamen's knowing participation in the crimes was untrue, there was sufficient additional evidence for the jury to find that Pelisamen had committed the crimes.

Indeed, even if Bellas had falsely testified about a material fact, Pelisamen offered no evidence to demonstrate that Bellas intended to falsely testify, said Munson in denying Pelisamen's motion for a new trial.

"Defendant does not present sufficient evidence to show that [Bellas] committed perjury or that the alleged perjury could have reasonably affected the jury verdict," the judge said.

Pelisamen was the administrator of the Rita Kaipat estate, which had received $1.37 million in distribution. The U.S. government charged Pelisamen with unlawful use of estate funds.

On June 22, 2009, the federal jury found Pelisamen guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and two counts of money laundering.

Pelisamen, though counsel Douglas Cushnie, moved for a new trial, accusing Bellas of secretly setting up a bank account as his then counsel before improperly transferring $1.37 million of the estate's account to lawyer Joseph A. Arriola.

In denying the motion, Munson said Bellas represented defendant in the probate distribution and was replaced by Arriola. Subsequently, Munson said, Bellas transferred the $1.37 million from his trust account at the Bank of Guam to Arriola.

The U.S. government and Pelisamen dispute the details of this particular transfer.

The U.S. government presented evidence that Bellas personally delivered the money to Arriola.

In contrast, Pelisamen presented evidence that Bellas deposited the funds into his trust account at the Bank of Guam under the estate's name and later transferred the money to Arriola's account.

In any case, Munson said, once control of the money was transferred to Arriola, Pelisamen and Arriola transferred the money to a checking account with the Bank of Hawaii.

Munson said Pelisamen and Arriola wrote checks from that account totaling $655,775, made payable to Pelisamen, his wife, and Arriola.

The judge said Pelisamen contends that Bellas testified falsely regarding the money transfer between himself and Arriola and that the U.S. government allegedly failed to disclose the evidence regarding the alleged lie.

Munson said conflicting testimonies trigger credibility determinations and such determinations as to the weigh and credibility of witness testimony are the responsibility of the jury as the finders of fact.

"Accordingly, the conflicting evidence before the court speaks to Atty. Bellas's credibility, but does not necessarily show that Bellas' testimony was false," the judge said.

In addition, Munson said, the alleged lie is not material. Pelisamen argues that without the false testimony the government would have failed to show defendant's knowing participation in the wire fraud or his specific intent to commit the crimes.

However, Munson said, regardless of how Bellas conveyed the estate funds to Arriola, defendant signed to open the account at the Bank of Hawaii and wrote checks against the account for items unrelated to his role as administrator of the estate.

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War-bereaved families conclude 5-day pilgrimage

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Members of the Nippon Izokukai Japan War-Bereaved Families Association are joined by representatives of the Commonwealth Health Center, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Assistive Technology Program, and the CHC Volunteers Association during the turnover of two children's wheelchairs and other gift items to the hospital yesterday.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some 50 members of the Nippon Izokukai Japan War-Bereaved Families Association concluded yesterday their annual pilgrimage to Micronesia with a visit to the Commonwealth Health Center where they donated two wheelchairs for children.

One of the wheelchairs went to the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Assistive Technology Program and the other went to CHC.

The group donated adult-sized wheelchairs during their visit last year.

Aside from the wheelchairs, the group also brought gift items that included pencils, hand towels, baseball caps, and two air pumps for the wheelchairs.

CHC Volunteers Association member Rita Tenorio presented the group with a plaque of appreciation.

The group's executive director, Masanori Takahashi, said the delegation was divided into two teams, with the other team going to Guam first before visiting Saipan; the second group went to Tinian and Saipan.

He said their main purpose is to hold a memorial service and peace offering, an annual visit supported by the government of Japan.

The visitors are sons and daughters of Japanese soldiers who died during World War II in Micronesia, including Guam and the CNMI.

"Although it was a sad event in our history, we are here to offer prayers for peace and continue building good relationship with the people of Saipan for a wonderful future," said Takahashi through an interpreter.

He said they would continue to come to Saipan as long as they are healthy.

CHC Volunteers Association member Rieko Guerrero thanked the group for their continued support to the hospital as well as their efforts to build friendly relations between the people of Japan and Saipan.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DPS-147

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO PURCHASE POLICE GEARS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

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PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
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/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
SEPTEMBER 7, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 AT 8:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE, RM. B2, TATACHOG, ROTA. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  1. Roll Call
  2. Adoption of Agenda
  3. Adoption of Minutes
    a. August 4, 2009
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  2. Financial Report - CDA
  3. Legal Counsel's Report
IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
  1. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
    a. Fiscal Year 2009 Budget – Revised
    b. Fiscal Year 2009 Audit
    c. Update on Foreclosed Properties
  2. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
  3. DBD/Public Finance Committee
  4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities.
    a. Benefits Guidelines
V. OLD BUSINESS
  1. Small Business Development Center
  2. Business Incubator
VI. NEW BUSINESS
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. *(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)*

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
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PUBLIC NOTICE
SEPTEMBER 7, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL MEET ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 AT 11:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE, RM. B2, TATACHOG, ROTA. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  1. Roll Call
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. PUBLIC COMMENTS
IV. REPORTS
  1. Financial Report – DCD
  2. Loan Reports
    a. Loan Applications
    b. Approved Loans & Bank Guarantees
    c. Bank Guarantees Status' Report
    d. Loan Status/Receivables Report
    e. DCD Performing Loan Summary/Delinquency & Litigation
V. OLD BUSINESS
  1. Preliminary Recommendation to Provide Further Debt Relief
VI. NEW BUSINESS
  1. New Loan Requests
  2. Borrowers' Requests
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman, CDA Board of Directors

NMI's CJPA chief Ierome is reappointed to NJCA board

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency executive director Jerome Ierome had been reappointed as a member of the board of directors of the National Criminal Justice Association for 2009-2010.

Ierome's reappointment came after the NCJA elected a new set of officers, including president Roland Mena and vice president Molly J.M. Perry early last month.

"We have benefited greatly from your participation as a member of the 2008-2009 board of directors. Your perspective on criminal justice based on your position and knowledge as the chief executive officer of the criminal justice administering agency for the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands provides a unique contribution to the deliberations of the board of directors," Mena told Ierome in a letter dated Aug. 27.

The board's next meeting is on Oct 21 in St. Louis, Missouri, to take place in conjunction with the Justice Research and Statistics Association National Conference on Oct. 22-23.

The board's second meeting is scheduled for April 15-17, 2010, in Washington, D.C.

Ierome accepted his reappointment in a response letter to Mena on Aug. 28, thanking the NCJA for recognizing the CNMI's contribution to the boards' deliberation.

"Your acknowledgement of our unique perspective of not just representing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, but, also the other Pacific territories is very much treasured," he said.

Ierome also recognized and thanked all the board members, including Executive Director, Mr. Cabell C. Cropper and the great staff for their huge support and untiring guidance to all our ongoing requests for the Commonwealth's program stability in the past years.

He said that the CNMI, through CJPA have benefited tremendously in many ways from the fine work of the NCJA.

"I look forward to learn more and continue to become an ambassador of the justice system for the CNMI, including the other Pacific territories in all aspect of NCJA in the years to come," Ierome said.

Mena is the executive director of the Montana Board of Crime control while Perry is the executive director of the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Star Sands Plaza posts triple sales after store takeover

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Star Sands Plaza in Garapan has tripled its sales in less than a month after taking over ownership of the former La Moda Isla, and has also turned the store into a local landmark with its patented "I Love Saipan" sign on its façade and on souvenir products such as shirts.

"When we took over, we restocked the items and our sales have gone up. They have tripled," Alex Youn, president of AC Pacific LLC doing business as Star Sands Plaza, said in an interview.

Star Sands Plaza has started showcasing live cultural dances and songs every Saturday night, in addition to combining shopping experience with giant visual images of the region's historic past and natural beauty.

On Saturday night, members of the Inatuas cultural dance group performed local dances in front of Star Sands Plaza, to the amazement of shoppers and tourists.

"We are celebrating the change of ownership and celebrating culture and tourism," Youn added.

Tourists also take turns posing in front of Star Sands Plaza mainly because of the "I Love Saipan" logo, which is the only landmark of its kind on the island.

"Tourists, if they go to a foreign place, like to have their photo taken in front of a sign that says the name of that place. We are the only one on Saipan with a big 'I love Saipan' sign and tourists want that," said Allen Xie, vice president and buyer manager of Star Sands Plaza.

Xie said in a way, Star Sands Plaza is not only promoting its business but is also promoting Saipan and CNMI tourism and culture.

Youn said Star Sands Plaza continues to search for local products to be added to the store's merchandise. He said they have been receiving calls from Guam vendors also interested in putting their products at Star Sands Plaza.

Star Sands Plaza owns the building where the former La Moda Isla store is located. Due to unpaid building rent for months, La Moda Isla gave up ownership of the store and building owner Star Sands Plaza took over the store. The new owners retained the seven store employees and maintained the same products.

Youn said the former owners of La Moda Isla left the key to the building on Aug. 8, and the formal takeover of Star Sands Plaza was on Aug. 14, said Youn.

"The store did not close, contrary to other media reports. We took over right away. We will continue to keep it open. And the name of the store now is Star Sands Plaza, not I Love Saipan," he added.

The 12,000-square-foot Star Sands Plaza is a standout among the existing shopping centers in the CNMI by combining shopping experience with cultural exploration, where shoppers are treated to giant visual images of the CNMI's and the region's historic past, as well as the natural beauty of the islands, including underwater and above water photography.

Ace Investment Group/AC Pacific LLC sued Lacita Corp./La Moda Isla for failing to make regular payments on the rent of land and facilities last year and early this year.

Alex Youn, left, president of AC Pacific LLC doing business as Star Sands Plaza, and vice president and buyer manager Allen Xie show their patented "I Love Saipan" shirts on Saturday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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8:00am - Shot Gun Start
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[1] Annual Percentage Rate 6.99% is for personal loans effective from 9/7/09 to 9/11/09. Annual Percentage Rate is based on a 3-year term with monthly payments of $153.14 for $5,000 loan amount which includes $40 document preparation fee. Other rates and terms available. Subject to credit approval. Not for Hawaii, Business or Real Estate Loans.
[2] Guam and Saipan residents and branches only. Must have a Continental Airlines OnePass account to receive OnePass Miles. No purchase necessary. See branch for official rules.

Community urged to prepare for disasters

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos urged community members to take advantage of opportunities prepared during the month to become more aware and better prepared for any natural or man-made disaster that may strike the islands, as he proclaimed September Disaster Preparedness Month.

This year's theme, "Get ready, get a kit, be informed and have a plan," focuses on educating CNMI residents on how to come up with inexpensive ways to put together emergency kits that may include items as a flash light, water, non-perishable foods and other items that may be found on island.

Inos, during a Sept. 1 proclamation signing, said that while disasters cannot be prevented, their effects can be mitigated through well-organized public education campaigns, risk assessments, and proper planning. "This is the goal of CNMI Disaster Preparedness Month," he said.

Located in a "typhoon alley," the CNMI has been particularly vulnerable to the devastation of typhoons and floods.

Among the activities scheduled for the month are a "Create your own unique emergency or disaster kit" for elementary school students, and school presentations, including topics such as basic earthquake tips, typhoon preparedness, tsunamis, volcanoes, fire prevention and education, and the H1N1 flu virus.

Also planned are trainings and workshops, including shelter manager's trainings, community emergency response trainings, individual assistance and public assistance trainings through the Department of Homeland.

The Disaster Preparedness Committee plans to hold a Family Fun Day on Oct. 3 at the Civic Center beach to wrap up the event.

"The idea is to have a fun filled day where the general public will enjoy themselves earning free items and prizes while educating them on disaster preparedness. During the grand finale, there will also be simulated emergency response competition wherein various representing emergency response agencies and organization will compete in such games as putting on a Level A suite blindfolded and an obstacle course," said the committee. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

MVA summer interns share experiences

The Summer Youth Training Program of the Workforce Investment Act has paid off big for the Marianas Visitors Authority and its six interns.

The six high school students gained experience working in the divisions of administration, marketing, research and community programs, while MVA benefited from having extra help from July 6 to Aug. 28, 2009.

"Being in the hospitality industry, we welcome the opportunity to work with young people on developing their customer service and office skills," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "We appreciate their help over the summer, and in return, they take with them some practical job skills and a better understanding of MVA responsibilities and activities."

Before departing, each of the students shared a few words with the MVA staff about their experience:

■ "When I started my summer training I was really scared, because I never worked in an office before. I though the work here was going to be very hard, but it wasn't, once they showed me how to do it." -Marian Lynn R. Ngirbabul

■ "Working here as an admin assistant is helping me to get to know the work better and to know how the staff communicate with peers." -Junella Norita

■ "On my third week, half of the day I was assigned to Research Division. They taught me the three most important things that they're doing in their division, which are editing, scanning, and importing data. It was a challenging task…" -Raquel Pelisaman

■ "My time here at the Marianas Visitors Authority was my first job experience, and it turned out to be a good one… When I went to Marketing, the assignments I had were more interactive with the busy public." -Roseanna Sablan

■ "Not only (did) I earn money, but it molded me (to be) more responsible and (taught) punctuality." -Reginold Maniacop

■ "I would like to say this summer training was a blast. I had a whole new experience that I've never seen before…" -Samantha Calvo

Each student trained for three weeks at the MVA. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority summer interns—from left, Samantha Calvo, Reginold Maniacop, and Mariah Ngirbabul—on their last day of work on Aug. 28, 2009, with MVA management and staff. The three were the second batch of interns assigned to MVA this summer through the Workforce Investment Agency.

Council now accepting nominees for the annual Humanities Awards

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is accepting nominations for the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards.

The awards program is an annual event, undertaken in conjunction with CNMI Humanities Month in October, to recognize outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals, organizations, groups and institutions.

According to the Council's acting executive director, Scott Russell, nominations may be submitted in one of five categories: Research and Publication in the Humanities; Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices; Outstanding Humanities Teacher (both classroom and non-classroom settings); Preservation of CNMI History; and Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

Russell said the most prestigious award—Lifetime Achievement—will go to a nominee who has made significant contributions in the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

In order to be considered, the Council must receive nomination forms and accompanying supporting documentation no later than 4:30pm on Oct. 9, 2009. Nomination forms are available at the Council's new office in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai or from its website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Russell said that the awards will be presented during a dinner ceremony tentatively scheduled for the last week in October. ***(PR)***

Mieko Carey is Gold's newest instructor

Just back from capturing the XTERRA Japan Championship title, professional triathlete Mieko Carey is Gold's Gym's newest fitness instructor.

Carey

In September, Carey will begin teaching two classes back-to-back on Wednesdays:

■ Wed: 5pm-5:15pm: Power Abs (2nd floor stretching area)

■ Wed: 5:30pm-6:30pm: Power Sculpt (aerobics room)

Carey will lead the Power Abs class, which targets the midsection with specific exercises geared to strengthen the abs.

Next, her high energy Power Sculpt class combines aerobic conditioning, cardio and weight training, stretching and cool down.

For information on membership or classes, call Gold's Gym at 233-4000. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 8, 2000

Evacuees climb to 204

Tropical storm Saomai continued to pound Saipan yesterday forcing more residents to flee their homes for safer grounds due to strong winds and heavy rains. The number of evacuees occupying six of the eight designated emergency shelters climbed to 204 individuals, including children, according to the Emergency Management Office. EMO said these individuals evacuated to temporary shelters in fear of floods and possible damage to their poorly-built and unsecured dwellings.

3 contracts arising from Outer Cove lease questioned

The Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs aimed its sight yesterday into the Outer Cove Marina lease following findings of several other contracts that have sprung outside the main agreement. During the resumption of the oversight hearing, committee members raised concern such contracts may have violated the terms of the lease agreement that was approved by the 9th Legislature. The deal gave a 15-year lease to Marine Revitalization Corp. to build and operate the marina and was forged with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the U.S. National Parks Service during the previous administration.

House mulls CHC privatization

The Department of Public Health-as well as the Commonwealth Health Center-is facing privatization plans from local lawmakers. This, after contributing the biggest slice to the Babauta Administration's projected $18 million budget deficit this financial year. Privatization of the local hospital and the department that runs it would lessen the fiscal burden now carried by the CNMI government, said Rep. Benjamin Seman.

Sept. 8, 2003

Manglona threatens court action

Senate president Paul A. Manglona will hail the four members of the Senate minority bloc to court if they go ahead and convene a session tomorrow, saying what they will be doing is illegal under Senate rules and Commonwealth law. Manglona said yesterday that, if the minority bloc pushes ahead with their "illegal" session, he will be forced to seek judicial intervention. "It's very unfortunate that my four colleagues are pursuing a session with less than a quorum. What they will be doing is an illegal session, putting aside the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth. If they go ahead with this, I will be forced to seek judicial intervention so that we can once and for all put this issue to rest," said Manglona.

Rota special poll to coincide with Nov. 1 midterm election

The special election for Rota to find the replacement for former senator Ricardo S. Atalig will take place on November 1, coinciding with the midterm election. This was confirmed Friday by Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who said this move will save the government additional expenditures that would have been spent if the special poll is done on another date. Babauta said he has already talked with Commission on Elections executive director Greg Sablan and they agreed that they would proceed with the notice of special election to coincide with the mid-term election.

Sept. 8 2004

Stateless defended by Babauta anew

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is asking U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft to withdraw from contesting the appellate court victory of so-called stateless persons in the CNMI in their quest for U.S. citizenship and attached statutory benefits. Babauta supported the cause of stateless persons, stressing that their political and immigration status unintentionally resulted from their birth in the Northern Marianas between Jan. 1, 1974 to Nov. 4, 1986-the intervening period between the adoption of the Covenant and its ratification.

9/11 caused Continental to lay off 20 percent of workforce

Continental Micronesia has reduced its workforce by nearly 20 percent or over 330 positions since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, as part of its cost-cutting measures. Walter Dias, Continental Micronesia staff vice president for sales and marketing, said the reduction of positions result from a combination of staff reduction, attrition, and the elimination of unfilled positions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Moylan's Insurance donates $2,000 to the Marianas Baptist Academy under the Educational Tax Credit Program. Picture shows Marianas Baptist Academy's principal Ramiro H. Trinidad, left, accepting the check from Moylan's Insurance Life Department Manager Bobby A. Shringi on Wednesday Sept. 2, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to our hero, Ivan Ichiro, who is celebrating his birthday today, Sept. 8! Much love from your wife and kids and the rest of your family, and all of your friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MOYLAN'S DONATIONS

On Wednesday Sept. 2, 2009, Moylan's Insurance donated the sum of $2,000 to Mount Carmel School under the Educational Tax Credit Program. Picture shows Moylan's Health Coordinator Liza C. Anda handing the check to Mount Carmel School president Margaret C. Dela Cruz. Moylan's also donated the same amount to four other institutions, including the CNMI Humanities Council.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Moylan's Insurance Life Department Manager Bobby A. Shringi, standing at the back, poses with Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School's public relations director Angie Perez and students of the Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School after handing over a $2,000 check donation as part of the Educational Tax Credit Program. "Moylan's Insurance recognizes the importance of being a proud corporate citizen, and looks forward in these contributions helping to grow young minds. This is also just a start, as more contributions will be made later this year," said Shringi.

Calvary Christian Academy principal Scott L. Norman receives a $2,000 check donation from Moylan's Health coordinator Liza C. Anda. Moylan's Insurance donated $2,000 to five institutions on Saipan on Sept. 2, 2009, under the Educational Tax Credit Program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW DCCA SECRETARY

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos administers the oath of office for Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin O. Faisao Friday afternoon. Faisao was confimed by the Senate on Thursday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos poses with newly sworn in DCCA Secretary Melvin O. Faisao, Attorney General Ed Buckingham, Faisao family members, and administration staff after the swearing in ceremony at the Office of the Governor's conference room.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CJPA - CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Programs includes the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and the STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program under the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).
A brief description and amounts available for each program are listed below, less planning and administrative costs stipulated under each program and are allotted to CJPA as the Designated State Agency (DSA) administering these programs in the CNMI.

I. Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant: FY2009 $359,279.00

Proposed as a mechanism to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - Edward J. Byrne Memorial Program allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG provides agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most, and simplifies the administration process for grantees. The JAG purpose areas are: Law Enforcement Programs, Prosecution and Court Programs, Prevention and Education Programs, Corrections and Community Corrections Programs, Drug Treatment Programs and Planning, Evaluation, Technology Improvement Programs, and Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation).

Funds under this program may be used to support the hiring, training, and employing of additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel on a continuing basis. Furthermore, funds can be used to procure equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions, as well as establishing crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.

II. STOP Violence Against Women Act: FY 2009 $562,991.00

The Office on Violence Against Women, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, provides national leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce violence against women through the implementation of the Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP), VAWA. Established by legislation, funds through VAWA formula grant, are made available to support efforts in developing programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in state, local, and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, and others. STOP-VAWA grant programs provide assistance for victims through protection and services that they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. In accordance with the STOP program requirements "CNMI Three Year Implementation Plan", STOP-VAWA grant funds are made available to support law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and the Superior Court in the CNMI.

Pre-qualified agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals, objectives and activities will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs.

Under the VAWA FY' 09, in accordance with CNMI Implementation Plan, these categories and/or agencies are allotted at least the following amounts:

- **30% Non Profit, Non Governmental Victim Services**; of which at least 10% is to be distributed to culturally-specific community based organizations;
- **25% Law Enforcement** (Department of Public Safety, Office of Adult Probation and Office of Parole);
- **25% Prosecution** (Office of the Attorney General);
- **5% Courts** (Family Court);
- **15% Discretionary**; maybe spent at the discretion of the state/territory to address statutory program areas.

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System "Supervisory Council" through a sub-grant review process consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. The projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. The Supervisory Council is expected to meet mid October 2009 and will be announced.

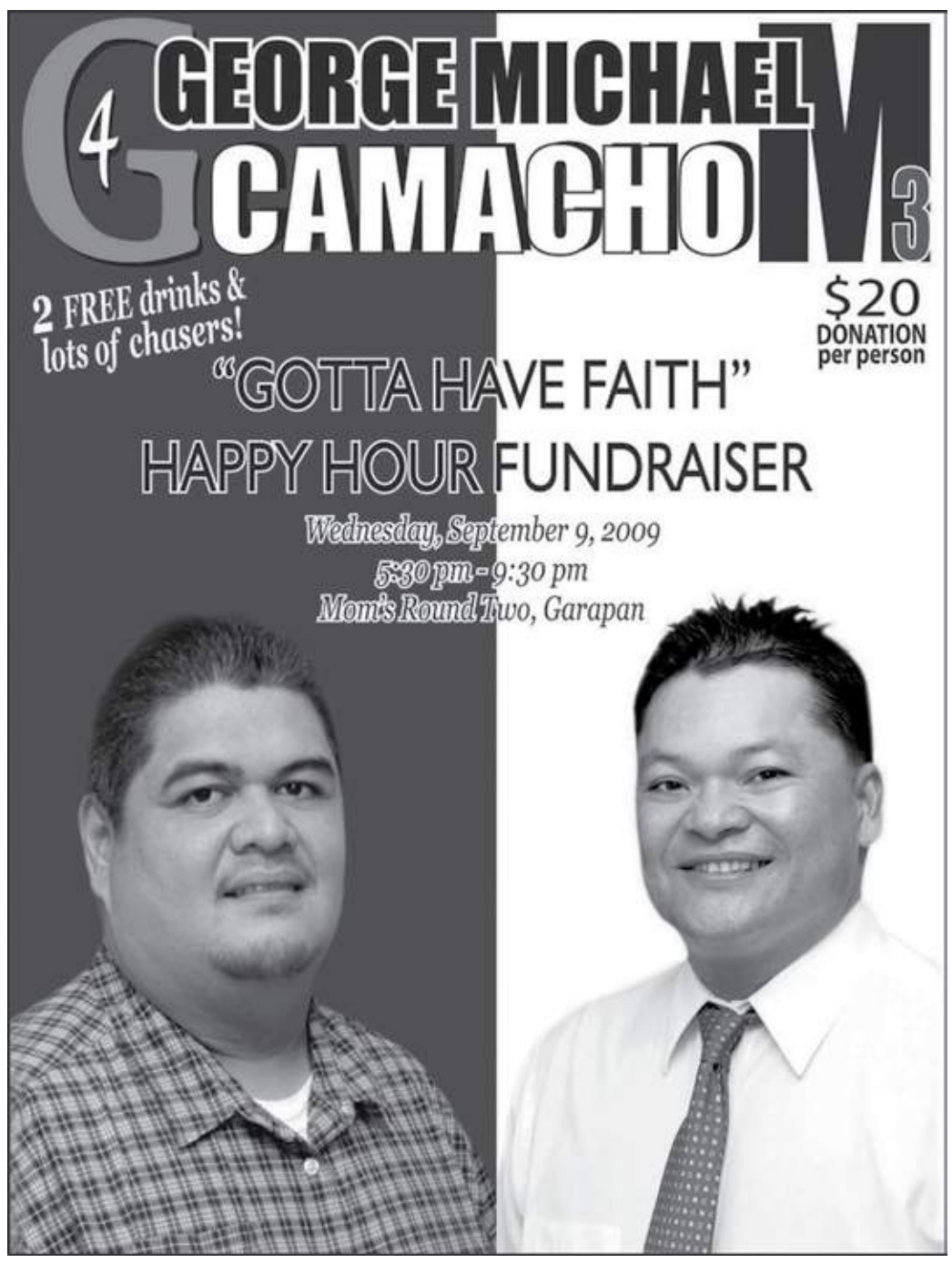
All complete applications must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday October 2, 2009.

For Tinian and Rota Applications Only: (CJPA fax: 664-4560)
Complete and full applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by fax following the deadline said above, including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) sent in by fax will not be accepted.

Interested applicants can contact the CJPA at 664-4550 or stop by the CJPA Office on Capitol Hill (House #1314 or #1315) to obtain a Sub-Grant Application Form. The application format is also available through the CJPA Web Site at www.cjpa.gov.mp. Please indicate and specify which grant program you are applying for on the application. For more information, please call 664-4554 for Ms. Shirlynn Perez regarding VAWA and 664-4553 for Mr. Paul Tenorio regarding Byrne JAG or if necessary contact Mr. Jerome Ierome, Executive Director at jerome.ierome@cjpagov.mp

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director, CJPA



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Required reading

The discussion about health-care reform has featured a lot of talk about "bending the curve" of rising health care costs without a lot of detail about how. A useful new study from the Brookings Institution's Engelberg Center for Health Reform helps fill that gap. The report, "Bending the Curve: Effective Steps to Address Long-Term Health Care Spending Growth," is the product of 10 health-care experts who span the political spectrum, from Mark McClellan, who headed the Medicare program under President George W. Bush, to Harvard economist David Cutler, a health-care adviser to numerous Democratic politicians, including President Clinton and candidate Barack Obama.

The group's essential and unsurprising conclusion is that existing mechanisms for purchasing and delivering health care are fundamentally flawed. Individuals don't have the correct incentives—or even adequate information—to reduce costs. Insurance companies make money by managing risk—cherry-picking the healthiest enrollees—rather than by competing on value. Doctors, hospitals and other health providers are paid based on the quantity of services they provide rather than the quality of care they deliver.

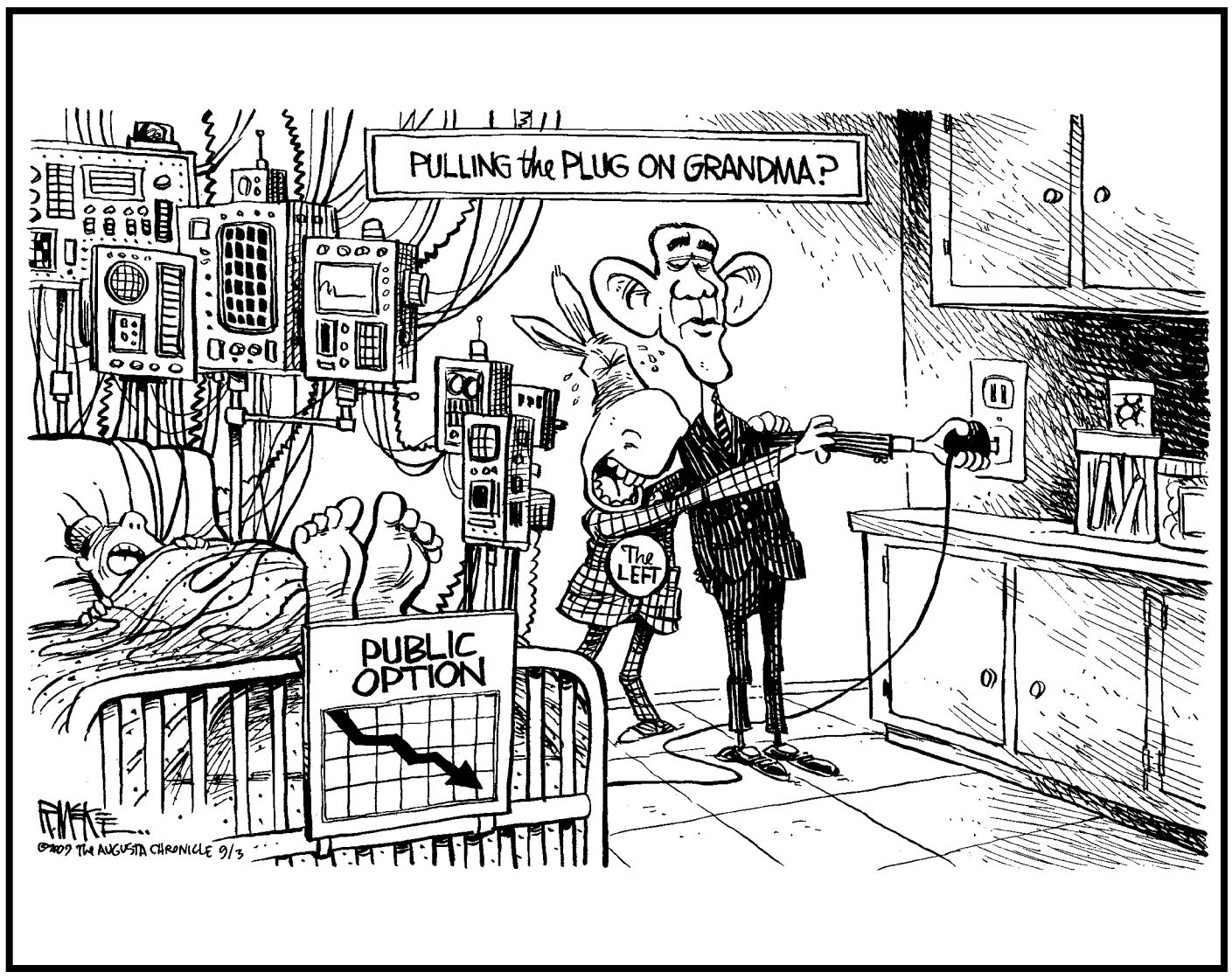
Thus, the group endorses changes such as raising the tax on sweetened beverages to target obesity and offering premium rebates to customers who improve their health or eliminate risk factors. It argues for capping the amount of health insurance that employers can provide tax-free, "to encourage carriers to design and workers to choose more cost-effective coverage." It proposes overhauling Medicare payment practices to reward performance and promote preventive care, and it endorses an entity that could propose fast-track policy changes for Medicare and Medicaid.

Some of its suggestions are part of the pending legislative proposals, but too much has been left out or watered down. Among the more intriguing ideas is a thoughtful approach to malpractice reform: The group suggests creating "health courts with specialized expertise in medical liability"; shielding providers from lawsuits if they adhere to "evidence-based guidelines"; and establishing "a legal pathway for early communication, apology and compensation."

In addition, the group proposes a far more fundamental shift in Medicare than do any of the legislative proposals. It would impose differing levels of co-payments depending on the service; for example, those deemed of high value might require no contribution from the patient while services determined to be of lesser health benefit might carry high co-payments. And it would reform supplemental Medicare insurance to eliminate "first-dollar coverage," under which seniors have no incentive to limit the amount of care they obtain.

As lawmakers return to work on health reform, this report should be required reading, lest the imperative for making long-term changes in health insurance and delivery gets left behind in the political scramble.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



The elders' view of the Middle East

By JIMMY CARTER
Special to The Washington Post

The writer was the 39th president. He founded The Carter Center, a nongovernmental organization focused on global peace and health issues.

During the past 16 months I have visited the Middle East four times and met with leaders in Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza. I was in Damascus when President Obama made his historic speech in Cairo, which raised high hopes among the more-optimistic Israelis and Palestinians, who recognize that his insistence on a total freeze of settlement expansion is the key to any acceptable peace agreement or any positive responses toward Israel from Arab nations.

Late last month I traveled to the region with a group of "Elders," including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former Presidents Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil and Mary Robinson of Ireland, former Prime Minister Gro Brundtland of Norway and women's activist Ela Bhatt of India. Three of us had previously visited Gaza, which is now a walled-in ghetto inhabited by 1.6 million Palestinians, 1.1 million of whom are refugees from Israel and the West Bank and receive basic humanitarian assistance from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Israel prevents any cement, lumber, seeds, fertilizer and hundreds of other needed materials from entering through Gaza's gates. Some additional goods from Egypt reach Gaza through underground tunnels. Gazans cannot produce their own food nor repair schools, hospitals, business establishments or the 50,000 homes that were destroyed or heavily damaged by Israel's assault last January.

We found a growing sense of concern and despair among those who observe, as we did, that settlement expansion is continuing apace, rapidly encroaching into Palestinian villages, hilltops, grazing lands, farming areas and olive groves. There are more than 200 of these settlements in the West Bank.

An even more disturbing expansion is taking place in Palestinian East Jerusalem. Three months ago I visited a family who had lived for four generations in their small, recently condemned home. They were laboring to destroy it themselves to avoid much higher costs if Israeli contractors carried out the demolition order. On Aug. 27, we Elders took a gift of food to 18 members of the Hanoun family, recently evicted from their home of 65 years. The Hanouns, including six children, are living on the street, while Israeli settlers have moved into their confiscated dwelling.

Daily, headlines in Jerusalem newspapers say that certain areas and types of construction would be excluded from the settlement freeze and that it would, at best, have a limited duration. Increasingly desperate Palestinians see little prospect of their plight being alleviated; political, business and academic leaders are making contingency plans should President Obama's efforts fail.

We saw considerable interest in a call by Javier Solana, secretary general of the Council of the European Union, for the United Nations to endorse the two-state solution, which already has the firm commitment of the U.S. government and the other members of the "Quartet" (Russia and the United Nations). Solana proposes that the United Nations recognize the pre-1967 border between Israel and Palestine, and deal with the fate of Palestinian refugees and how Jerusalem would be shared. Palestine would become a full U.N. member and enjoy diplomatic relations with other nations, many of which would be eager to respond. Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad described to us his unilateral plan for Palestine to become an independent state.

A more likely alternative to the present debacle is one state, which is obviously the goal of Israeli leaders who insist on colonizing the West Bank and East Jerusalem. A majority of the Palestinian leaders with whom we met are seriously considering acceptance of one state, between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. By renouncing the dream of an independent Palestine, they would become fellow citizens with their Jewish neighbors and then demand equal rights within a democracy. In this nonviolent civil rights struggle, their examples would be Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

They are aware of demographic trends. Non-Jews are already a slight majority of total citizens in this area, and within a few years Arabs will constitute a clear majority.

A two-state solution is clearly preferable and has been embraced at the grass roots.

Just south of Jerusalem, the Palestinian residents of Wadi Fukin and the nearby Israeli villagers of Tzur Hadassah are working together closely to protect their small shared valley from the ravages of rock spill, sewage and further loss of land from a huge settlement on the cliff above, where 26,000 Israelis are rapidly expanding their confiscated area. It was heartwarming to see the international harmony with which the villagers face common challenges and opportunities.

There are 25 similar cross-border partnerships between Israelis and their Palestinian neighbors. The best alternative for the future is a negotiated peace agreement, so that the example of Wadi Fukin and Tzur Hadassah can prevail along a peaceful border between two sovereign nations.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Fandañgun Natibu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Fandañgun natibu un` sumen fitme na pogse` tradision gi dinaña tautauta. Ha soyu dinaña todus gi hilu namagof na inetnon. Man-mattu parientes siha ginen i chagu. Guaha dinaña yan inatuñgu hafa para u fan machogue siha. Dispues guaha un` mento` (manager) ni dumispacha todo i para u fan machogue.

Un` pueñge antes de u akamu i dos tautau, mana` guaha ayu i mafanana`an komplimientu `nai magutus i uttimu finihu gi entalu dos familia para umapetsige i selebrasion umasagua gi sigiente dia. I familian i nobiu ha presenta ayu i mafanana`an aug`, ha inklulusu alahas yan otru siha ninae` para i nobia tat komu magagon umasagua. I puntu gi este na chechu` familia i para umapega i dos tautau gi mafanana`an "sagan niha".

Gi silensiu gi santatte, kontodo matulaikan dikiki na tanu familia pot un` guaka yan otru siha pinegsai masera para preparasion este na okasion. Todo mañgalamten gi hilu kooperasion. Taiguine antes linie`hu pot chechu tautauta pot umakamu.

I chechu inembrarasa mapunu ga`ga`, peskan tasi, muñgayu, hatsadan palapa, pastet gi hetnun sanhiyoñg, etsis mendioka, suni, choda, ginileg mai`es `sino eskomi, malomug suni yan lemai, tinala` katne yan guihan siha. Guaha na manadaña amotsan ogaan yan sena gi un` lugat. Guaha lokue na kada unu konsukuat gi aregloña. Gi todo atmos banda, bula man-mañge siha na putahen neñkanu natibu.

Ai na manadan chochu. Dañkulu na obligasion lau estague mina fandadañgu okasion umakamu gi komunidatta guine. Hu lie` `nos kuantos kantot yan gitalan niha ma-akompaña i nobia yan nobiu deste gima Yuus guatu esta`i lugat i nobia. Hu lie` manadan tañges `nai ma-echa bendision i nuebu na kasamientu. Hu lie` lokue` mahogue i nobia halom gi gima mañainan asaguaña. Sumen namagof na okasion gi nuebu na tinituhun un` familia.

Este lokue na okasion `nai hu lie` bailan antes—ilotis yan batsu—ginen i mañainata. Durun baila ayu i ilotis sa` guaha `nai ti man-e`eti i palaoan adeñgña gi pisu. Tula noche mana` kilulog piot ya metgut i gachoñgña na bailadot. I lipesña solu gumugupu gi oriyaña. Paire na bailan antes ni taya` esta `nai talie` na tiempu. Pot mampus gastadut ya ti para pagu na tiempu `nai megaiña bisitan ti kombidau.

Dispues de kayada, matutuhon man-matupa i palapala yan managasgas man-dañkulu siha na kalahe. I man-mattu ginen i chagu ha bira siha tatte giya siha. Makontinua talu chechu gualu yan peska para mantension familia. Lau ayu na dinaña familia muna` fifitme mauleg yan maug` na amestan parentela siha. Estague` un` sumen namagof na kinalamten natibu antes.

■■■

Estotbu: Guaha `nai un` huñgog un` chelumu `sino amigumu kumanta disintunau lau ni guiya ti ha tuñgu na sumen disintunaugue? Ya trabiha hana` la`agañg sa` piloña na bonitugue kumanta? Ai, esta fumofofuyu ni binibuhu. Era, guaha un` tiuhu na sumen disintunau kumanta. Lau hafa` espotña kumanta gi fihon mame piniloña na in` agradesi disintunauña. Dispues hu diñgu i lugat sa` hihot mahlug i haguan tatkilu haga`. De dios mihu!

Holding regimes accountable is a risk that journalists take

By JEAN-FRANCOIS JULLIARD
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

The arrest and eventual release of Current TV journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee by North Korea, and recent reports of North Korean and Chinese authorities cracking down on refugee networks, have renewed the public debate over how far foreign journalists should go in covering repressive nations.

The leaders of countries such as Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), China, North Korea and Zimbabwe restrict foreign media access, fearing that independent interpretations of their policies and actions will threaten their rule at home and damage their reputations abroad.

In order to suppress news that reflects poorly on their regimes, these nations create elaborate surveillance networks to monitor foreign journalists as well as local dissidents who might assist reporters in gathering information. Journalists who travel to these countries essentially become unofficial international representatives to the local population, presenting and discussing views that government officials have attempted, forcibly, to silence.

Needless to say, challenging a regime's control over information in such a manner is dangerous for both journalists and their local contacts. They must balance the safety concerns for reporters and the dissidents assisting them with the need for public awareness on issues suppressed by authoritarian governments. Unfortunately, these are risks that reporters and the citizens of repressive regimes have to take on a regular basis if there is to be any chance of creating dialogue that can foster significant change.

The alternative is to remain complacent and content to ignore important realities of human suffering. Ling and Lee chose to take a risk to expose the human smuggling issue at the Chinese-North Korean border and to show the work of agencies working on the spot to help the victims. The issue is not that they were reckless in their work but that they were up against possibly corrupt local interests and a repressive regime intent on seeing that the story does not get out.

The circumstances surrounding their arrest raise serious questions as to what extent Chinese provincial authorities and North Korean border security guards may have colluded to prevent Lee and Ling from getting a story that reflects poorly on local authorities on both sides of the border.

North Korea is in a class of its own when it comes to controlling access to information. It is a place where listening to a foreign radio station can land you in a labor camp for several years and trying to make a phone call to the outside world reportedly can lead to execution. Visas for foreign journalists and tourists are seldom issued, and when they are, visitors are taken on government tours where they are not allowed to leave the sight of their escorts or to speak to the local people.

Most people will agree that, in its most idealized form, the role of a journalist is to be a neutral observer of the events that mark our times. While this might be a naive view, it is difficult to argue against the fact that, in one way or another, journalists play a substantial role in developing our understanding of the world.

In the United States and Europe, we automatically expect access to information, no matter how mundane or important it might be. We have put this ideal in our constitutions and laws, and we constantly try to ensure that it is upheld in order to preserve transparency and accountability. But our dependence on the media also underscores the importance of having a variety of perspectives that are not necessarily those of the ruling classes. This, of course, is the very issue at stake when discussing whether journalists need to take the risks involved in covering repressive countries.

When New York Times reporter Barry Bearak entered Zimbabwe on a tourist visa in 2008, he did so because it was the only way he could cover an election that turned out to be an astounding example of political corruption and intimidation. Bearak was discovered and jailed for five days for entering without proper accreditation.

Andrew Marshall, a freelancer for Time magazine, entered Myanmar in 2008 on a tourist visa in order to report on the destruction caused by Cyclone Nargis and the state of the relief effort. At the time, Myanmar had closed its border to journalists and aid workers, fearing that news of its inadequate response to the humanitarian crisis would further embolden a population that already had begun challenging the state. Marshall was able to cover some of the hardest-hit areas before being detained and deported.

By entering Zimbabwe and Myanmar under false pretenses, both journalists were able to offer insight that never would have been available otherwise. Taking those risks in order to raise awareness and hold governments accountable for their actions is something journalists have to do if we, the public, hope to have any real knowledge about the day-to-day lives of millions of people around the globe.

Julliard is secretary-general of Reporters Without Borders, a Paris-based media advocacy group.

Letters to the Editor

Innovative minds

This letter is in response to Mr. Juanis King Jr. on "Got noni?" In your comments about the Tinian noni project, you claimed that thousands and thousands of hours, gas and water were spent to promote and run this project. And your impression is that it was all a waste of those thousands. Thousands? You did not mention a specific figure in your comments, so without the figures or facts I'm thinking you are just making assumptions.

I do agree that the noni project has yet to materialize to its full intention. But hey, the noni is a tree. It helps keep the ozone layer stable. Nothing was lost in planting trees around the island. The last time I perused the Republican pamphlet, I saw three planting around the island as an agenda. But you already know that it's done. So just duplicate the task if you want to—go ahead and plant some more trees. Go green.

I have not met anyone who rolled their eyes on the issues of this project. All I know is that funds were used to pay for the job to be done. Funds for nursery supplies were needed, wages for workers (the employees) were needed. There were jobs provided. There were jobs to be done. Yes, jobs. Yet you mention that the project was stalled and the funds squandered on something else. Got proof? I don't think so. Got assumptions? Yes, you do!

What you failed to mention in your letter are the real improvements, changes and accomplishment in the three years (yes, three years and 8 months, not four years) that this administration has made. The present administration has been very innovative in finding ways to generate funds to help our local economy. The Kastiyu Wildlife Park, I read some very positive comments about its outcome. That park is generating funds. It is working. It is helping our local economy. A dog control program has been established and put into full operation. It is generating much-needed funds as well. Dogs are getting tagged. Dogs are being adopted. The stray dog problem has been eradicated. Tinian should be the island to visit, the place to go to and the place to see. Yes, this program is helping our local economy.

Another major improvement that you failed to mention is our road. I don't see or read any more bitter comments about our so called "pod hole ville." I have not heard any complaints about the condition of the roads anymore in the papers. I really don't care if the funds for the road improvement had been there ages and ages ago; what matters is the job got done during this administration. Yes, it's done.

Another innovation is the abalone project that is still in its infancy. You see, this administration tries to utilize its own local resources to improve our economy. It knows full well that getting outside investors to come into our island is a long and costly process. It knows that outside investors are not always guaranteed. No other administration that I know of ever thought of improving our local business. That is because none of those before were prominent businessmen in the first place. The way that this present administration think is: "We can't get investors, let us see what we can do with what we already have." Kastiyu, dog control, why not abalone too? In order to achieve success for the abalone project, conservation measures had to be accounted for. No-take zones were implemented after the marina dock was face lifted. If you snorkel to the marina today, you will come across spans of clams. That is the perfect site for such a project. Abalone is a mollusk that is not only edible but also produces pearl and it is exportable. Business minds, innovative minds are what we need for change and this administration already has it. And yes, it did!

Jamie Sn. Omengkar
Marpo Valley, Tinian

What about Tinian?

Monday's article stating that, "The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approved the proposed $45-million preferred stock agreement between the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Commonwealth Development Authority during Thursday's meeting" raises some concerns for the people of Tinian.

If this stock is issued and outsiders buy shares in CUC, will they control our options regarding the future investments in alternative energy sources for Tinian?

For your information, the Tinian power plant is currently capable of producing 20 megawatts of power. The island is currently using less than 5. The other 15 are being fueled and maintained at CUC expense, even though they can not be used. This is necessary to protect the value of the plants. This cost is being passed on to all CNMI power users.

No rate study has ever been done on Tinian.

Without a representative on the CUC board of directors, who is representing the best interests of the Commonwealth citizens on Tinian in regard to water and power generation and distribution?

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

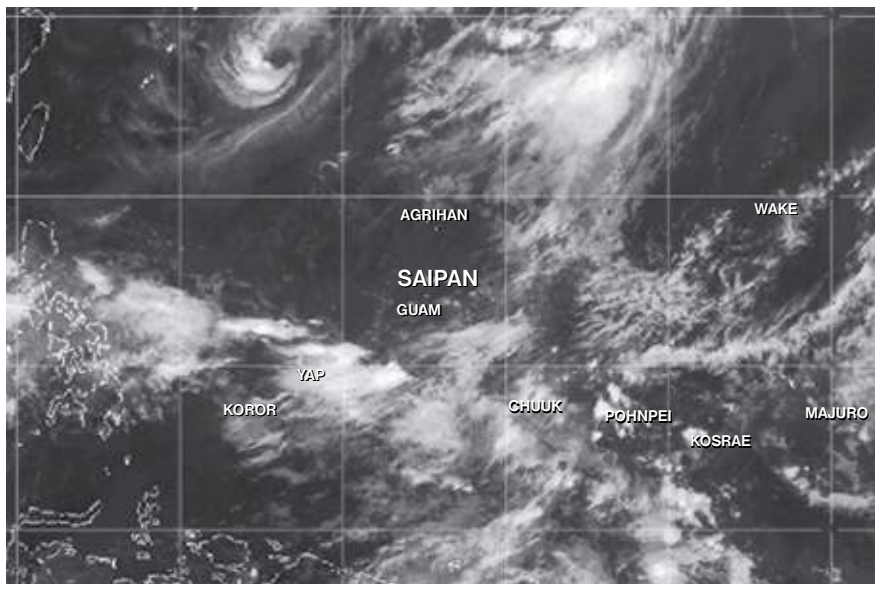
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲88	▼81
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲90	▼79
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲88	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲61	▼43
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼54
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Cloudy	▲81	▼59
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲81	▼64
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼46
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼78
New York	Cloudy	▲80	▼67
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼69
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼67
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼68
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼56
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼47
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲75	▼57
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼61
Tokyo	Showers	▲80	▼69
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from Luzon across 15N130E through a weak circulation west of Chuuk at 8N147E to end near 2N165E. Convergent westerly winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms along and up to 250 miles southwest of the trough. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northeast of the Marianas within 50 miles of a line from 19N154E to 18N151E and southeast of the Marianas within 75 miles of a line from 13N151E to 9N149E. A surface trough extends southward from 22N170E northeast of Wake Island to east of Majuro near 7N173E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are within 50 miles of a line from 19N169E to 17N167E and within 50 miles of a line from 21N173E to 17N176E and in an area from 13N173E to 15N180 to 8N180 to 8N172E back to 13N173E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:47 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:54 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:53 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:34 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:33 PM	8:43 AM
Wednesday	9:18 PM	9:38 AM
Thursday	10:08 PM	10:35 AM
Friday	11:04 PM	11:35 AM
Saturday	11:04 PM	11:35 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ716/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

A year after meltdown: Tough questions, choices

NEW YORK (AP)—Where do we go from here?

A year after edging dangerously close to free fall, there are signs the economy is regaining a foothold. But Americans' sense of financial security is badly shaken and the nation confronts questions that defy quick or comfortable answers.

Without easy credit, what does life hold for a nation of consumers?

With nest eggs broken, will older workers need to rethink retirement?

With old institutions gone—and the government propping up others—what will replace them?

The anxieties reach deeper than those stirred by all other recessions since World War II, when businesses, workers and consumers took reassurance from signs economic life was returning to normal. Instead, the U.S. is at an unsettling economic moment, facing the possibility that some old expectations may no longer apply.

After more than a decade of building dreams atop a bubble—first in technology stocks, then in housing—there is no clear route forward. Moving on, economists say, the country will have to redefine expectations, accepting that the bubble-fueled growth the country became accustomed to is neither something to aim for nor count on, but evidence of an economy that was out of balance.

"The problem is we're longing for something we shouldn't have even wanted," said Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors in Holland, Pa.

If a slow climb out of recession is in store, as many economists believe, it could take years to answer questions about the future.

AP

In this Sept. 15, 2008 file photo, Lehman Brothers world headquarters is shown in New York. That day, Lehman Brothers, a 158-year-old investment bank choked by the credit crisis and falling real estate values, filed for Chapter 11 protection in the biggest bankruptcy filing ever.

Until then, the greatest comfort may be in knowing that we are far from alone in our doubts.

That much is clear to Stephen Sullivan, a Metuchen, N.J., accountant who lost his job last fall and at 62 is still searching for work. He sees it in the faces of others like him who meet each Wednesday night for his church's unemployment ministry.

"If misery loves company, this is it," Sullivan said. "There's like a big unknown here and nobody knows from reading it, trying to study it ... what will happen. What's next?"

The Great Recession was years in the making. But while the downturn began at the end of 2007, the economy sidestepped a meltdown until last fall.

Despite eight months of efforts by federal policy makers, the collapse in housing prices had continued rippling through the financial system. Credit markets- the economic lifeblood for businesses and consumers—were freezing up. In early September, the government seized control of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the federally chartered companies at the heart of the mortgage markets.

Then, with the distractions of summer a memory, the bottom dropped out.

In a weekend of desperate dealmaking, Merrill Lynch & Co.—the nation's biggest brokerage brought low by billions in losses on bad mortgage investments—signed itself over to Bank of America. By sunrise Monday, Sept. 15, another one of Wall Street's most storied firms, Lehman Brothers, had collapsed into bankruptcy.

AP: Layoffs toughest on workers young, older

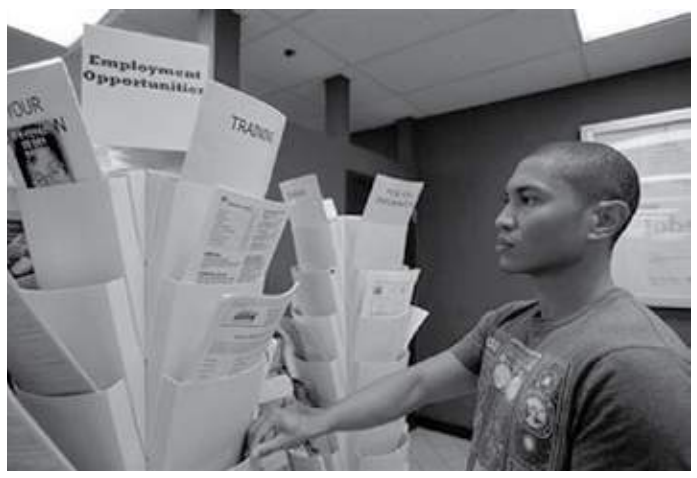
ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Marcus Wells and Shirley Walker view their economic prospects from opposite ends of the age spectrum.

Wells, 25, was initially optimistic about his prospects for finding a new job after he was laid off as a systems analyst in January in San Jose, Calif. Now unemployment has begun to wear on the him, and he believes his age has factored into his frustration.

"More experienced people are getting hired, and they're downgrading their skills to get the job," Wells said. "I feel like I'm competing with older workers, not college graduates. It wears on your confidence."

Walker, 58, lost her job running a nonprofit which helped minority women in business in Orlando and hasn't had any luck finding new work in the three months since.

"What they tell us is that they're looking for more mature and experienced workers, but they want us to work for less, or what they could pay younger people to do," she said recently outside an Orlando job fair. "Maybe younger people would be willing or able to accept lesser pay."



AP

This Sept. 1, 2009 photo shows Marcus Wells looking for work at the State of California Employment Development Department in San Jose, Calif.

Would-be retirees have watched their savings dwindle and health care costs soar, while workers recently out of school and burdened by debt try to advance in careers that no longer have room for them.

The results show up on the map: Places with high concentrations of people in their late 20s or nearing what they thought would be their retirement age are feeling the recession the hardest, as measured by The Associated Press Economic Stress Index. The index assigns each county a score from 1 to 100, with higher numbers reflecting greater stress, based on its unemployment, foreclosures and bankruptcy rates.

California's Santa Clara County, where Wells lives, registered 14.42 on the stress index through June, the most recent month for which figures are available, while Walker's Orange County, Fla., came in at 15.69, both well above the average county's 10.6.

The groups associated with the highest stress scores in each U.S. county are men and women between ages 25 and 29 and women over age 55. That doesn't necessarily mean having a high percentage of people in those groups causes a county's economic health to worsen, though the two appear to go hand in hand.

Experts said a variety of factors may be at play.

Young adults are more at risk for losing their jobs and homes in a recession, while people later in life are more likely to declare bankruptcy in order to protect their assets, said Tay McNamara, director of research at the Center on Aging and Work at Boston College.

"Last hired, first fired. Generally, that is very true," McNamara said.

Chanel Moore knows how that goes. The 25-year-old Orlando resident was laid off last year from a job in retail and has found herself competing with older workers in her jobs searches.

"I'm young, trying to get on my feet, and then you have people older than me who are already on their feet looking for jobs with more experience than me," Moore said.

Investors see few reasons to send market higher

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock market has lost some of its swagger, and it seems unlikely to regain it anytime soon.

A six-month rally that sent Wall Street's major indexes up more than 45 percent from their March lows has hit the wall. While months ago investors welcomed even modest signs that the economy had slowed its decline, now traders won't settle for anything less than signs of actual growth before they'll buy stocks with any enthusiasm again.

"There's no catalyst to push the market higher right now," said Brett D'Arcy, chief investment officer at CBIZ Wealth Management Group in San Diego. "You can only be less bad for so long before you need to be good."

The holiday-shortened week—the market is closed Monday—brings few major economic indicators that could revive the rally. The biggest reports will likely be the Federal Reserve's beige book report, which tracks economic activity by region, and the University of Michigan's preliminary report on consumer sentiment during September.

However, those reports are not considered as important as monthly jobs data, which came out Friday, or retail sales and consumer spending reports.

An improvement in employment and consumer spending is needed for a full recovery but there's no sign yet of that happening, said Mike Rubino, CEO of Rubino Financial Group in Troy, Mich.

"We think numbers can get worse," Rubino said about job losses. "We're still going to leak jobs."

On Friday, the Labor Department said the unemployment rate rose to a higher-than-expected 9.7 percent in August from 9.4 percent in July. There was some upbeat news in the report: U.S. employers cut fewer jobs than anticipated, shedding 216,000 positions during the month.

Stocks rallied in light pre-holiday trading after the report was released, with the Dow Jones industrials rising almost 97 points. But that blip up wasn't enough to offset a big drop earlier in the week that came on resurgent worries about the economy and fears that investors had been too optimistic in bidding stocks up this spring and summer.

Question remains: What will rise at ground zero?

NEW YORK (AP)—The five skyscrapers were all supposed to rise by early next decade to replace the ravaged World Trade Center, with the city's tallest towers set in a spiral evoking the Statue of Liberty's torch.

They would frame a massive memorial in a tree-filled park, plus a theater and a transportation hub with uplifted wings—one of several symbols intended to defy the terrorists who destroyed the 16-acre site in under two hours.

Standing on the site now—a multi-level labyrinth of concrete and steel, from the entrance resembling the rooftops of an underground city—the sweeping design unveiled 6 1/2 years ago still hasn't materialized.

And while the most symbolic pieces of the puzzle at ground zero are taking shape, it's become increasingly clear that the grand scheme will take decades to be fully completed, if it ever is at all.

Vickie Cooper had mixed feelings as she peered through a fence at the site's stark northeast corner, a spot reserved for a skyscraper now mired in arbitration over its financing.

Its history is "too sad to even really think about progress," said the 48-year-old Austin, Texas, insurance worker.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil clings near $68 ahead of OPEC meeting

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices clung near $68 a barrel for a fourth day Monday in Asia as investors looked to this week's OPEC meeting for a possible change in the cartel's production. Benchmark crude for October delivery was up 12 cents at $68.14 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract Friday rose 6 cents to settle at $68.02. Trading volume was light in Asia on Monday ahead of the Labor Day holiday in the U.S. Traders are eyeing Wednesday's meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna. OPEC President Jose Botelho de Vasconcelos, who is also Angola's oil minister, said last week that the 12-member group will likely keep output quotas unchanged.

Kuwait fund: No plans to sell Citi, Merrill stakes

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund says it has no plans to sell off the stakes it took in Citigroup and Merrill Lynch because it has faith in the U.S. banks' long-term potential. In a statement printed in Kuwaiti newspapers Sunday, the Kuwait Investment Authority also said it believes the current economic crisis "will pass with time" due to the actions of central banks. The KIA invested $3 billion into Citigroup and $2 billion into Merrill Lynch in January last year at a time when both banks were needed cash following losses stemming from the credit crisis. Merrill was later bought by Bank of America, making the KIA a big shareholder in that company.

Drought-stricken streams threaten Calif. salmon

SAN GERONIMO, Calif. (AP)—California's third year of drought has worsened the already dire outlook for endangered coho salmon, as coastal creeks used for spawning dwindle into disconnected pools where fish get trapped and die. On a hot summer afternoon about 40 miles north of San Francisco, a group armed with fishing nets and buckets was on a rescue mission. They slogged through muddy pools, the last vestiges of once-flowing Arroyo Creek, trying to find stranded coho and threatened steelhead trout. So far this summer, these fish rescuers in Marin County have found no coho, an ominous sign for a species struggling to survive on the West Coast.

Nation

Bottom line on public insurance plan gets blurry

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration's bottom line on a government health insurance option blurred Sunday as White House officials stressed support but stopped short of calling it a must-have part of an overhaul.

As President Barack Obama prepares for a Wednesday night speech to Congress in a risky bid to salvage his top domestic priority, no other issue is so highly charged. Obama's liberal supporters consider the proposal for a public plan to compete with private insurers do-or-die. Republicans say it's unacceptable. It's doubtful the public plan can pass the Senate.

White House political adviser David Axelrod said Obama is "not walking away" from a public plan. But asked if the president would veto a bill that came to him without the option, Axelrod declined to answer.

The president "believes it should be in the plan, and he expects to be in the plan, and that's our position," Axelrod told The Associated Press.

Asked if that means a public plan has to be in the bill for Obama to sign it, Axelrod responded: "I'm not going to deal in hypotheticals. ... He believes it's important."

The biggest challenge Obama faces in his prime-time address is to take ownership of health care legislation that until now has been shaped by political conflicts in Congress. Lawmakers return this week from a summer break that saw eroding public support for an overhaul and contentious town hall meetings in their districts.

The idea of a public plan has become a symbol for the reach of government in a revamped health care system. Supporters say it would give workers and their families similarly secure benefits as older people now get through Medicare, while leaving medical decisions up to doctors and patients. The plan would be offered alongside private coverage through a new kind of purchasing pool called an insurance exchange. At least initially, the exchange would be open to small employers and people buying coverage on their own.

Insurers say they could never compete against the price-setting power of government. Employer groups warn it would undermine the system of job-based coverage.

A public option—or government plan—has come to mean different things to different people. Some say it could be a public trust and independent of the government: nonprofit co-ops could serve as a check on insurance companies.

AP

In this photo provided by ABC News, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs is interviewed on ABC's "This Week" in Washington Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009.

2-year-old, 3 others dead in La. murder-suicide

HOLDEN, La. (AP)—A man shot his estranged wife, son and 2-year-old grandson to death and seriously wounded his pregnant daughter-in-law at their rural Louisiana home, then killed himself as police tried to pull over his car 20 minutes later, authorities said.

The pregnant woman later gave birth, about three months early, her father said.

Carter

The shootings late Saturday appeared to stem from an ongoing dispute between 50-year-old Dennis Carter Sr. and his wife, Donna Carter, who had a restraining order against him, Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office Chief of Operations Perry Rushing said Sunday.

The father of the pregnant woman, Amber Carter, said the suspect had a history of abusing his estranged wife and recently tried to attack her with a machete.

"This had been going on for quite some time," Paul Williamson said. "It was one of those domestic violence things that just gets worse and worse."

Another 16-month-old boy was in the house during the shootings but was not hurt. The child was related to the Carters but Rushing was not sure how.

Authorities were called around 10:30 p.m. Saturday to the home in Holden, about 30 miles east of Baton Rouge. Donna Carter, 49, and Dennis Carter Jr., 26, were dead inside. Dennis Carter Jr.'s wife, Amber Carter, was badly hurt and their son, Masson Carter, 2, was found dead outside.

Williamson said Carter Jr. had previously fought with his father to protect his mother.

Rushing said it appeared Amber Carter, who was about six months pregnant, and Masson Carter managed to escape from a second-floor window but it was not clear if the gunman shot them inside or followed them outside and shot them there.

Rushing said deputies spotted Dennis Carter Sr. about 20 minutes after the shootings driving on a highway. When they tried to pull him over, he shot and killed himself.

"It's very unusual to have this many victims," Rushing said. "This is an anomaly by any stretch of the imagination."

Duncan says furor over Obama speech 'silly'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The furor surrounding President Barack Obama's upcoming address to the nation's schoolchildren is "just silly," his education chief said Sunday, and a conservative senator who led the Education Department in the first Bush administration suggested teachers make it a civics lesson.

Duncan

Education Secretary Arne Duncan's department has taken heat for proposed lesson plans distributed to accompany Tuesday's speech. He acknowledged that a section about writing to the president on how students can help him meet education goals was poorly worded. It has been changed.

Debate about conservative objections to the speech has dominated cable television and talk radio for several days, signaling again the stark divisions in the country both over politics and social issues.

Some opponents to the speech claim Obama would try to indoctrinate schoolchildren with what they call his "socialist" agenda.

"That's just silly. They can go to school. They can not watch. It's just, you know, going to be an 18-minute speech," Duncan said.

He said Obama had no intention beyond talking "about personal responsibility and challenging students to take their education very, very seriously."

Sen. Lamar Alexander, education secretary under President George H.W. Bush, said he understood "some of the concern, because, you know, people say, `Oh, here's another Washington takeover.'

About 2,000 turn out for parade for kidnap victim

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. (AP)—The town where Jaycee Lee Dugard was kidnapped 18 years ago celebrated her astounding reappearance with a parade Sunday while she remained secluded with her family in Northern California.

Dugard's former classmates and teachers were among those who took part in the one-mile march along South Lake Tahoe's main drag to celebrate her safe return. She was snatched from a school bus stop in the resort town in 1991 at the age of 11.

"We just want her to know that we love her and support her," said Jillian Broadfoot, 30, who attended Meyers Elementary School with Dugard at the time. "I think Tahoe lost its innocence with the kidnapping, and hopefully her return restores a little faith here."

South Lake Tahoe Police Chief Terry Daniels estimated 2,000 people took part in the parade and another 500 people joined them at a rally afterward. Most wore pink attire or held pink balloons in recognition of Dugard's favorite color. The parade route was lined by pink ribbons on trees.

Some participants yelled out, "Jaycee, we love you." Others wore pink T-shirts with the message, "Jaycee, Tahoe (Hearts) You."

Meghan Dorris, 28, of Stateline, was among Dugard classmates who started a pink ribbon campaign when she was she abducted to show their hope for her safe return.

"It really haunted us over the years, and I'm just excited to get her back," Dorris said. "Putting myself in her place, I can't imagine what she went through. I wish her the best in the healing process and hope she can lead a normal life."

Sunday's parade followed the reverse route of a march held on the 10th anniversary of Dugard's abduction. Missing person posters that volunteers handed out in the days after she disappeared in 1991 were stacked near the start and updated with large black circles with slashes drawn through them.

ACROSS THE NATION

Former cocaine kingpin now serves dogs, not drugs

MARKHAM, Ill. (AP)—Two decades after customers clamored to buy cocaine from a teenager named John Cappas, they're lined up again to buy what he has to sell: Hot dogs. The one-time "drug kingpin," as the newspapers called him in the late 1980s, this summer became an owner of a hot dog stand called Johnny's WeeNee Wagon. It's a few Chicago suburbs and a world away from where he ran the drug empire that made him $25,000 a week—enough to buy a house, fast cars and a necklace that spelled "Spoiled Brat" in diamonds to drape around his Playboy bunny girlfriend.

Police: 1 dead, 3 critical in prisoner van crash

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP)—A private guard driving a prisoner van was killed and several others were injured, three critically, when the van carrying three guards and nine inmates drove off an interstate, hitting an embankment and trees before flipping over Sunday, police said. The van was carrying prisoners from Texas and Louisiana to different detention centers located along the U.S. East coast. All 12 occupants had to be cut from the crumpled wreckage of the white van, which lay on its roof with its windows shattered amid broken trees. The van's driver, a 50-year-old security officer for a private prisoner transport agency, was pronounced dead by coroner's officials at the site of the single-vehicle crash off Interstate 59 in the Hattiesburg area, police said.

Crews work to hold Calif. wildfire's eastern edge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With the massive wildfire burning north of Los Angeles more than half contained, hand crews were working Sunday to keep the fire's eastern flank from crossing a rural mountain highway, a U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman said. The fire, which started Aug. 26, has killed two firefighters, blackened nearly 246 square miles of the Angeles National Forest and destroyed at least 76 homes. Fire agencies so far have spent $43.5 million fighting the blaze. Authorities on Sunday were trying to determine who set the deadly fire.

Asia

9 dead, 926 rescued from capsized RP ferry

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Passengers leapt into the dark sea and parents dropped children into life rafts when a ferry carrying nearly 1,000 people capsized in the middle of the night in the southern Philippines.

Nine people died and more than 30 were missing though rescue efforts saved about 900 terrified victims on the *Superferry 9* early Sunday after it turned on its side 9 miles (15 kilometers) off Zamboanga del Norte province.

The vessel's violent rotation roused frightened passengers from their sleep and sent many jumping in the darkness into the water, coast guard chief Admiral Wilfredo Tamayo said.

Many aboard panicked as the huge ferry listed, said passenger Reymark Belgira. He said he saw parents tossing children to people on life rafts below, but he could not immediately jump himself.

"I held on to the ferry for hours until daybreak. I couldn't jump into the water in the dark," Belgira said.

Rescuers transferred 926 of 968 passengers and crewmen to two nearby commercial ships, a navy gunboat and a fishing boat, Tamayo said. A search was under way for 33 missing people.

AP

In this photo released by the Philippine Naval Forces Western Mindanao, passengers hang on the port side of the tilted *Superferry 9* off Zamboanga del Norte province, southern Philippines, Sunday Sept. 6, 2009.

"We really hope they're just unaccounted for due to the confusion," Tamayo told The Associated Press.

A coast guard statement said rescue efforts were continued through the night.

Passenger Roger Cinciron said he felt the ferry tilting at about midnight but was assured by a crewman that all was well. About two hours later he was awoken by the sound of crashing cargo below his cabin, he told DZMM radio.

"People began to panic because the ship was really tilting," he said as he waited for rescuers to save him and a group of more than 20 other passengers.

Navy ships were deployed and three military aircraft scoured the seas, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said. American troops providing counterterrorism training to Philippine soldiers in the region deployed a civilian helicopter and five boats, some carrying paramedics, to help, U.S. Col. William Coultrup said.

Teodoro said two men and a child drowned during the scramble to escape the ship. The bodies of two other passengers were later plucked from the sea by fishermen, the coast guard said, adding three people were injured.

A Canadian tourist, Jeffrey Predchuz, was among the survivors, officials said.

The cause of the listing was not clear. The ferry skipper initially ordered everyone on board to abandon ship as a precautionary step, said Jess Supan, vice president of Aboitiz Transport System, which owns the steel-hulled ferry.

There were reports the 7,268-ton vessel listed to the right because of a hole in the hull, the National Disaster Coordinating Council said.

Aerial photos from the navy showed survivors holding on to anything as the ferry tilted. Others climbed down a ladder on the side as a lone orange life raft waited below.

The ferry left the southern port city of General Santos on Saturday and was scheduled to arrive in Iloilo city in the central Philippines on Sunday but ran into problems midway, Tamayo said.

US-German rift emerges over Afghan deaths case

KABUL (AP)—An airstrike by U.S. fighter jets that appears to have killed Afghan civilians could turn into a major dispute for NATO allies Germany and the United States, as tensions began rising between them Sunday over Germany's role in ordering the attack.

Afghan officials say up to 70 people were killed in the early morning airstrike Friday in the northern province of Kunduz after Taliban militants stole two tanker trucks of fuel and villagers gathered to siphon off gas.

Afghan and NATO investigations are just beginning, but both German and U.S. officials already appeared to be trying to deflect blame.

German Defense Minister Franz Josef Jung said the Taliban's possession of the two tankers "posed an acute threat to our soldiers." German officials have said the tankers might have been used as suicide bombs.

"If there were civilian casualties or injuries, of course we deeply regret that. At the same time, it was clear that our soldiers were in danger," Jung said in comments to German broadcasters. "Consequently, I stand clearly behind our commander's decision" to order the air strike.

Meanwhile, Rear Adm. Gregory J. Smith, the top U.S. and NATO spokesman in the country, said German troops let too many hours pass before visiting the site of the bombing Friday.

He explained that it's important to hold the ground after a strike and determine what happened before the enemy comes out with its own version of events.

The top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, U.S. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, visited the site Saturday where two charred trucks and yellow gas cans sat on a riverbed. He asked a top commander in Regional Command North about the response time.

"Why didn't RC-North come here quicker?" McChrystal asked Col. Georg Klein, the commander of the German base in Kunduz.

AP

Local residents flee from a troubled area of Pakistan's tribal region of Khyber, where security forces launched an offensive against militants on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009.

Thousands of civilians flee battles in NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Thousands of civilians have fled Pakistan's northwest Khyber tribal region where the latest military offensive killed 33 more suspected militants Sunday.

Pakistan is under intense U.S. pressure to crack down on insurgents along its border with Afghanistan, especially the lawless tribal belt where al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden is suspected to be hiding. The U.S. believes militants use Pakistan's tribal areas as safe havens from which to plan attacks on Western troops across the frontier in Afghanistan.

Khyber is of particular concern because militants frequently attack trucks along the famed Khyber Pass, a main route for supplies destined for U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

The military destroyed two training centers and 15 militant homes on Sunday, killing 33 alleged insurgents, a statement from paramilitary forces operating in the area said. Nine more were taken into custody and two people kidnapped by militants were recovered.

The region is largely off-limits to journalists, making it difficult to verify the information independently.

Farooq Khan, a government official in Khyber, said hundreds of families fled the region since authorities relaxed a curfew Friday. He said security forces were "keeping a strict eye" out for any militants trying to blend in.

The Taliban-affiliated group Lashkar-e-Islam is a main target in the latest offensive, which authorities say has killed about 120 alleged militants. The operation was launched a week ago after a suicide bombing at a border checkpoint killed 19 police.

SKorea seeks NKorean explanation about flash flood

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea pressed North Korea to explain Monday what caused a sudden surge of water in a river flowing across the border from the North after the flooding left three South Korean dead and three others missing.

Six South Koreans camping and fishing along a river flowing from North Korea were swept away Sunday when it suddenly doubled in height. Seoul officials believe a sharp rise in Imjin River's water level was because a new North Korean dam just north of the border discharged an estimated 40 million tons of water without notice.

On Monday, the South Korean government sent a message to North Korea, expressing regret over the incident and requesting an explanation from Pyongyang, according to Unification Ministry spokesman Chun Hae-sung.

"The government feels very sorry for the occurrence of the massive damage," Chun told reporters. He said South Korea also "strongly urged" North Korea not to repeat similar incidents.

South Korean officials have raised concerns that the Hwanggang Dam could cause water shortages or flooding in the South, with some saying the North could use it as a weapon. Unification Ministry officials said South Korea conveyed such concerns to North Korea during talks in 2006 and 2007, but the North hasn't responded.

Defense Ministry spokesman Won Tae-jae told reporters Monday that South Korean and U.S. officials were analyzing why the North funneled such a large amount of waters to the South. Won, however, said there hasn't been any particular signs that North Korea would use waters held in dams to attack the South.

Construction of the dam, believed aimed at channeling water to a hydroelectric plant and for crop irrigation, was about 95 percent complete early last year, according to South Korean government estimates.

ASIAN BRIEFS

4th acid attack in busy Hong Kong area injures 11

HONG KONG (AP)—An attacker hurled acid at pedestrians in a crowded Hong Kong shopping district Sunday, injuring 11 people in the neighborhood's fourth acid attack in a year. Television footage showed two victims being carried on gurneys to ambulances, their heads covered in bandages. Police spokesman Chau Yau-fai said the attacker—a 28-year-old man arrested nearby—targeted a couple strolling through the Mong Kok district but also hurt nine others. Assistant District Commander Angela Ng said the couple quarreled with the suspect before the attack.

China Xinjiang chief survives political firestorm

BEIJING (AP)—As leader of the volatile far western Xinjiang territory for 15 years, Wang Lequan is the closest China has to a regional strongman. So it's little wonder a recent purge of lower-ranking officials over a spate of bloody unrest has done nothing to clip his authority, underscoring both the extent of his power and China's extreme sensitivity over any changes in the leadership of this strategic, conflict-ridden territory. Angry protesters poured into the streets of the regional capital Urumqi last week, demanding the removal of Wang and other officials over deadly ethnic rioting in July and a string of unnerving needle attacks blamed by the government on Muslim separatists. Officials say five people died in the protests and 21 have been detained on suspicion of stabbing people with needles.

Sri Lanka expels UN official over reported comment

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A United Nations official has been banished from Sri Lanka reportedly after discussing how the government's decades-long battle with Tamil Tiger rebels took its toll on children in the war zone. The residency visa of U.N. Children's Fund communications chief James Elder was revoked and he must leave the country by Sept. 21, Immigration Commissioner P.B. Abeykoon said Sunday. Abeykoon gave no reason for the decision. But local media have reported authorities were angered by Elder's remarks on the plight of children caught up in the government's military campaign against the now-defeated Tiger rebels and those currently living in displacement camps.

World

UN nuclear agency to discuss Iran, Syria

VIENNA (AP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency meets Monday for talks that will likely center on the U.N. watchdog's deadlocked nuclear probes of Iran and Syria.

The basis for the closed session of the IAEA's 35-nation board of governors, scheduled to last several days, are two recent agency assessments. One accuses Iran of continuing to enrich uranium and refusing to clear up lingering questions about possible military dimensions to its nuclear program.

Another chides Syria for not fully cooperating on efforts to settle inquiries about whether it was trying to build a nuclear complex at a desert site bombed by Israel in 2007.

Iran insists its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. But the U.S. and others contend the country is trying to build an atomic weapon. Syria denies hiding a nuclear program.

ON THE NET
http://www.iaea.org

Iran has defied three sets of U.N. Security Council sanctions and has bristled at the agency's latest report. On Friday, Iranian envoy Ali Ashgar Soltanieh accused Washington of using "forged documents" to make its case that Tehran is trying to build a bomb. In a letter to IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei, Soltanieh also criticized Britain and France.

The agency's latest assessment did acknowledge that Iran has been producing nuclear fuel at a slower rate and has allowed U.N. inspectors broader access to its main nuclear complex in the southern city of Natanz and to a reactor in Arak.

But it cautioned that there are "a number of outstanding issues which give rise to concerns and which need to be clarified to exclude the existence of possible military dimensions."

The IAEA launched a Syria-specific probe after Israeli jets destroyed what the U.S. says was a nearly finished nuclear reactor built with North Korean help that was configured to produce plutonium—one of the substances used in nuclear warheads.

Syria denies hiding nuclear activities, but has blocked the probe, refusing to allow U.N. nuclear inspectors follow-up visits beyond one last year and declining to provide satisfactory explanations for unusual finds of traces of uranium.

Damascus alleges that Israel used bombs or missiles containing depleted uranium—which hardens metal and allows it to penetrate deeper—in attacking the site. Israel has repeatedly told the IAEA it did not use such ordnance.

Over the next five days, board members are also expected to discuss nuclear security, measures to protect against nuclear terrorism and pay tribute to ElBaradei, whose term ends Nov. 30.

Iraq presses for tribunal for Syria bomb suspects

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's prime minister pressed a U.N. envoy Sunday on the need for an international tribunal to bring Syrian-based bombing suspects to trial, as Damascus refused to hand over those it called political refugees.

The dispute, triggered by devastating suicide truck bombings on government ministries in Baghdad last month, threatens to unravel steps toward better ties between the one-time adversaries.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who has bluntly accused Syria of betrayal and of harboring killers, briefed the special United Nations envoy, Ad Melkert, on the intensifying dispute, Iraqi state TV reported.

Both nations have recalled their ambassadors in a serious setback to relations that had just begun to improve after years of animosity during Saddam Hussein's rule.

Iraq says two wanted members of Saddam's Baath Party who fled to Syria at the start of the war planned and financed the Aug. 19 attacks. Syria has refused to hand them over, demanding evidence.

On Sunday, Syria said through a government-run newspaper that it would not hand over people it considers political refugees.

"Syria never handed over people who took shelter from the threat of injustice, arbitrary acts and death," the Al-Thawra newspaper said.

It said that if Damascus had followed such a policy, Iraq's prime minister and president—who both lived as dissidents in Syria during Saddam's rule—would not have fared well.

"They all know what their fate would have been if Syria had such political morals," said the paper, referring to al-Maliki and President Jalal Talabani.

One of the Iraqis linked to the August bombings is Mohammed Younis al-Ahmed, who was high up in the Baath Party and has been near the top of Iraq's most-wanted list for several years. The other suspect is Satam Farhan.

Pope meets Berlusconi aide amid scandal fallout

AP

In this Friday June 6, 2008 file photo, provided by the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, left, poses with Pope Benedict XVI, at right in white, at their meeting at the Vatican. Behind the pontiff, Berlusconi's Cabinet Undersecretary Gianni Letta looks on.

ROME (AP)—Premier Silvio Berlusconi's top aide met with Pope Benedict XVI on Sunday amid continuing fallout over scandals that have strained ties between Italy's government and the Catholic Church.

Berlusconi adviser Gianni Letta pronounced relations were "solid" after meeting briefly with the pontiff during a visit by the pope to Viterbo, north of Rome.

"My smile says it all. I'm happy and serene," Letta said, according to the ANSA and Apcom news agencies, although he added that there was always work to be done to "further strengthen" relations.

Ties between the government and church, which are politically important in the largely Roman Catholic Italy, have been in a tailspin recently. Catholic publications have openly criticized Berlusconi for his dalliances with young women and Vatican officials have criticized the conservative government for its tough anti-immigration policy.

In what was largely seen as tit-for-tat retribution, a Berlusconi family newspaper last week accused the editor of the country's pre-eminent Catholic newspaper of being involved in a scandal.

The editor, Dino Boffo, professed his innocence. But he resigned Thursday as head of Avvenire, the newspaper of the Italian Bishop's Conference, saying he was doing so for his family and the church.

Last week, Il Giornale, which is owned by Berlusconi's brother, claimed that Boffo had been fined in a plea-bargain several years ago for making harassing calls to the wife of a man in whom he was purportedly interested. It accused him of hypocrisy for scrutinizing Berlusconi's private life.

Boffo acknowledged being fined in the case but said someone else had used his cell phone to make the calls. Prosecutors maintain Boffo made the calls, but have denied there was a gay angle to the case. But Boffo has insisted that the full court file remain sealed.

Il Giornale published the article after Boffo's Avvenire called on Berlusconi to answer questions about revelations that women had been paid to attend parties at the premier's residences and that a high-class prostitute had once spent the night with him.

The revelations were sparked by the announcement in the spring by Berlusconi's wife that she was divorcing him, citing his presence at the 18th birthday party of a Naples model.

Israel approving new West Bank construction

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel defied U.S. pressure to halt construction in its West Bank settlements Sunday, with key leaders speaking out in support of the contentious enclaves and preparing to sign orders to allow building of hundreds of new housing units there.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak are expected to approve orders for about 500 new apartments Monday, said Israeli officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because the plans have not been finalized.

The Israeli government announced its plans to build the new units Friday while also outlining the idea of a subsequent partial freeze in settlement construction—an apparent attempt by Netanyahu to balance demands from both his conservative base and the Obama administration, which has called on Israel to halt all settlement construction.

But Netanyahu risks angering both sides. The White House immediately criticized the new building as detrimental to achieving Mideast peace, while members of the prime minister's Likud Party opposed limiting settlement construction at all.

"We were elected to fly the flag" of settlement, said Deputy Prime Minister Silvan Shalom at a Likud gathering late Sunday. "We must not fly that flag at half staff."

But other Israeli officials were more supportive.

The head of the ultra-Orthodox Jewish Shas Party, Eli Yishai, spoke supportively of a "strategic pause" in construction. And Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz called Netanyahu's move "well-conceived," adding that no agreement had been reached with Washington on a construction freeze.

WORLD BRIEFS

Documents on UK-Libyan ties outrage IRA victims

LONDON (AP)—Britain made no demands that Libya offer compensation for Britons killed by Libyan explosives supplied to the Irish Republican Army for fear it could jeopardize ties with Tripoli, according to new documents released Sunday. The revelation prompted accusations that Britain had acted to protect energy deals, and added to questions about whether trade ties influenced last month's decision to release Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi. Prime Minister Gordon Brown said his government "does not consider it appropriate to enter into a bilateral discussion with Libya on this matter," according to a letter to victims' lawyer Jason McCue released by Downing Street.

Man hangs self as horrified ex watches on Web cam

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Chilean police say a young man distraught over a breakup with his girlfriend hanged himself while she watched over a Web camera. Deputy inspector Carlos Court says 26-year-old Simon Venegas was chatting with his former girlfriend when he pointed his camera at a tree in a courtyard of his house. Court says Venegas hung a rope over a branch and told his ex, "Watch what I'm going to do" and "I love you, take care," before hanging himself.

Sarkozy to Brazil with fighter jet bid looming

PARIS (AP)—French President Nicolas Sarkozy left Sunday for Brazil with hopes of persuading officials there to choose French-made fighter jets in a hot competition with U.S. and Swedish rivals. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva invited Sarkozy to begin his two-day trip with dinner Sunday evening and as a special guest Monday to Brazil's independence day celebrations, in which French Foreign Legion troops are to take part. But the focus of Sarkozy's visit—just weeks before the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh on Sept. 24-25—was expected to be on economic issues, including industrial contracts up for grabs in Brazil's promising market.

Overdrive

2010 FORD MUSTANG PREMIUM V-6 CONVERTIBLE

Dream machine vs NY nightmare

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST
The 2010 Mustang Premium V-6 convertible is an affordable fantasy car gifted with some utility, as represented by usable rear seats. It is slightly more fuel efficient but decidedly less prestigious than the Mustang GT V-8.

NEW YORK—Fantasy is a holistic thing. It requires serendipitously cooperative elements to be believed, enjoyed and remembered. Consider the matter of driving convertibles.

By their very nature, convertibles are dream machines. You can drop their tops on a sunny day and commune with nature as you drive. It's the sun on your face, wind in your hair, the great outdoors. It's why we buy convertibles.

And it's why convertibles should not be driven in this city on an August afternoon in the middle of rush hour—certainly not with the top down.

I don't know what I was thinking. Perhaps it was that I had longed so desperately to lower the roof of the 2010 Ford Mustang Premium V-6 convertible in my possession. It was a tightly hewn thing with a gunmetal gray body, black vinyl top and tan interior. There was something retro about it, something 1960s funky.

It was the kind of car that makes aging men foolish, beckons them to masquerade as someone other than themselves, someone younger, more hip. I wanted to drop its top so badly! But it rained every day on my drive from Virginia to Cornwall, N.Y., and to many points in between and beyond—until the day I came here.

The sun shone prettily. Its actual heat was a distant thought. The air seemed clear. I imagined it to be crisp. But that was before the sun's heat became reality, made more intense by beaming down on a hatless head in a topless car. It was difficult to be or look cool under the circumstance, especially with sweat dripping down my forehead into my eyes.

The Mustang convertible is one of the best-loved, better-known convertibles in the U.S. auto market. It is rear-wheel drive with four seats, including two rear seats that can accommodate average adult bodies on trips of 50 miles or so—long enough to take a ride to the beach, dinner or a movie, and to do so in reasonable comfort.

But there is a Mustang pecking order that intrudes on fantasy. My Mustang convertible was equipped with Ford's decent but decidedly workaday 210-horsepower, 4-liter V-6 engine. I liked it, and I suppose most ordinary drivers would like it as well. But Mustang aficionados sneer at the car.

To many Mustang lovers, a Mustang that isn't a Mustang GT with a big, romping 4.6-liter, 315-horsepower V-8 engine and a robust, baritone exhaust note isn't really a Mustang. And please don't try telling them that you are driving the V-6 because you are concerned about the environment and are trying to save fuel, which neither the Mustang V-6 nor the V-8 does a particularly good job of anyway. They will laugh at you.

Or worse, if you are silly enough to tool along the FDR or Harlem River Drive here with the top down on a V-6 Mustang convertible on a hot August afternoon in the middle of rush hour, with cars and trucks madly whizzing about you, with particulate matter of seemingly all sorts flying into your face and hair, savvy New York motorists will tailgate you, shake their heads, laugh and shout insults, including a nastily hurled "Visitor!"

That hurt.

"That's not even a GT!" another motorist shouted. "You stylin' and profilin' in junk!"

Well, the Mustang Premium V-6 convertible isn't junk. It's a fun car, an enjoyable car, one that supports the fantasy of open-air motoring in acceptable fashion. But you just have to know when to lower its top to partake of what it has to offer. I didn't. I do now.

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

THE BOTTOM LINE
The 2010 Mustang Premium V-6 convertible is an affordable fantasy car gifted with some utility, as represented by usable rear seats. It is slightly more fuel efficient but decidedly less prestigious than the Mustang GT V-8.

COMPLAINTS
That V-6 engine remains a bit of a gas hog. I averaged 21 miles per gallon, combined city and highway. I know Ford can do better. When do we get an EcoBoost Mustang, Ford?

RIDE, ACCELERATION, HANDLING
Ride is excellent, thanks to some improved suspension work in the 2010 Mustang. Handling gets good marks, too. Acceleration is adequate.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The 2010 Mustang convertible is a mid-size, front-engine, rear-wheel-drive car with a semi-automatic (manually operated headliner latches) vinyl convertible top and seats for four people.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
It's a Mustang. But you'll get more attention in the Mustang GT.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
The model driven for this column was equipped with a 4-liter V-6 engine that develops 210 hp at 5,300 rpm and 240 ft-lbs of torque at 3,500 rpm. It was linked to an optional five-speed automatic transmission. A five-speed manual gearbox is standard.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for four people. Luggage capacity is 10 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 16 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
An unimpressive 16 mpg city and 24 mpg highway.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes front and rear ventilated disc brakes, electronic stability and traction control, side air bags.

PRICE
Base price on the 2010 Ford Mustang Premium V-6 is $28,995. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $26,671. Price as tested is $30,840, including $995 for the five-speed automatic transmission and an $850 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $28,387. A $1,000 consumer rebate is available. Prices are sourced from Ford, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
Compare with BMW 1-Series, Chevrolet Camaro, Infiniti G37 and Volvo C70.

Japan auto sales rise for first time in 13 months

TOKYO (AP)—The Japanese are finally buying cars again.

The country's auto sales in August rose for the first time in 13 months, as government subsidies and tax breaks helped lift demand. New vehicle sales, excluding minicars, climbed 2.3 percent from a year earlier to 198,265 units, an industry report showed Tuesday.

Toyota Motor Corp., the world's largest automaker, sold 90,802 vehicles during the month, up 9 percent, according to the Japan Automobile Dealers Association. Calculated separately, sales of Toyota's Lexus luxury brand soared almost 47 percent to 1,745 units.

Honda Motor Co.'s sales grew 13 percent to 31,115 units, while Nissan posted a 1.4 percent decline to 31,015 vehicles.

Both Toyota and Honda have benefited from the surging popularity of gas-electric hybrids, which qualify for tax breaks aimed at encouraging sales of eco-friendly vehicles. The exemptions translate into a roughly 150,000 yen ($1,600) tax cut per vehicle.

Honda released its new Insight earlier this year, billing it as the cheapest gas-electric hybrid on the market, to compete with Toyota's top-selling Prius.

Also boosting demand was Japan's version of "cash-for-clunkers." Buyers can receive a 250,000 yen subsidy if they replace a car 13 years old or more with a new vehicle.

Among other makers, Mitsubishi Motors Corp. posted a 22.8 percent increase to 4,519 units. Mazda Motor Corp. sold 13,543 cars, down 2.5 percent.

Investors cheered the latest numbers, sending shares of most automakers higher in trading Tuesday. Toyota Motor Corp. rose 0.8 percent to 4,020 yen, and Honda Motor Co. gained 1.2 percent to 2,970 — both outpacing the benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index's 0.4 percent climb.

AP
TOP-SELLER
In this photo taken on May 18, 2009, visitors look at Toyota Motor Corp.'s Prius at a Toyota showroom in Tokyo, Japan. An auto industry group says Toyota's hugely popular Prius hybrid ranked as Japan's top-selling car in August for the fourth straight month. The Japan Automobile Dealers Association said the Prius kept the top spot in auto sales with 21,669 vehicles sold with the help of government subsidies and tax breaks.

Life & Style

After first year, Smithsonian chief has big ideas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wayne Clough pulls a thumb-sized computer flash drive from his pocket and marvels at how many of the Smithsonian Institution's millions of objects can be captured on it.

The device holds sounds from endangered frogs, images from an archive of Depression-era paintings, a 360-degree view inside a Concorde supersonic jet and much more. The mini archive reflects one way the former engineer, now head of the institution, aims to share the collection of the world's largest museum complex online with more people than ever before.

"It is no longer acceptable for us to share only 1 percent of our 137 million specimens and artifacts in an age when the Internet has made it possible to share it all," Clough told curators and scientists earlier this year.

Unlike his predecessor, who sought to maximize the institution's potential as a visitor attraction and business enterprise, Clough is intent on building up the Smithsonian's science, research and educational impact beyond its walls.

A year into his new job, the 68-year-old former president of the Georgia Institute of Technology is reshaping the sprawling complex of 19 museums, the National Zoo and numerous research centers spread from Massachusetts to Kenya.

It's something of a back-to-the-basics approach for a place founded on science, with a mission to pursue the "increase and diffusion of knowledge."

Clough wants to combine the Smithsonian's resources to become a major voice on the toughest issues of the day. Among his key priorities: climate change, education and immigration.

AP

In this July 9, 2009 photo, Wayne Clough, left, the Secretary of the Smithsonian, is given a tour by Christine Kreamer, Acting Deputy Director of the National Museum of African Art at the museum in Washington.

"We can help our nation and the world face the grand challenges that lie ahead," he told the Smithsonian staff.

They're big goals. But he's already begun transforming the somewhat stuffy "nation's attic" (a term that makes Clough bristle) into a more innovative place.

"He is a scientist himself, and I think he really gets it," said Eva Pell, who will become the undersecretary for science in January. "All the ingredients are there—it's just a matter of bringing things together in a different way."

Pell, senior vice president for research and dean of the graduate school at Pennsylvania State University, said she was drawn by Clough's vision for bringing scientists and even curators in arts and history together to collaborate on research. It's an approach they believe could spark discoveries.

To bolster the Smithsonian's educational offerings, Clough recently secured a $1.3 million gift to hire an education director and create the institution's first central office focused on K-12 learning. (Previously, 32 different units carried out their own educational programs.)

When the country celebrated Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday in February, Clough oversaw the first interactive online link to 5,000 K-12 students and teachers in 50 states and 75 countries with lessons focused on the 16th president. Six curators showed off Lincoln artifacts and took questions. Another online conference about climate change is planned for later this month.

Clough has also forged new alliances with colleges.

A broad research collaboration is in the works with scientists and scholars at the University of Maryland. And he signed a deal with George Mason University in Virginia to build residence halls and laboratories as part of a joint-degree program pairing students with researchers at the National Zoo's 3,000-acre Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Va.

Less than a decade earlier, Lawrence Small, the previous Smithsonian chief, had proposed closing the Virginia facility, angering many scientists. Clough, though, is unflinching in his dedication to research.

"Zoos have to be research facilities," he said. "If they're just there for tourist attractions, they'll fail."

Scientists and curators said Clough brought a sense of excitement at a time when morale couldn't have been lower.

"It's a game changer really," said Steve Monfort, a longtime staff scientist who is now acting director of the zoo. "I'm seeing a change of culture that is setting in ... a sense that we have a secretary who is very strongly engaged."

In 2007, former secretary Small was forced out because of his high compensation and lavish spending—including charter jet rides and earnings of more than $900,000—amid a shrinking work force and $2.5 billion in maintenance needs. Some executives followed him out.

Clough faced the task of implementing reforms and said it's still a work in progress. Among the changes: He began to lower the six-figure salaries of at least 17 top executives to conform with federal pay scales.

One of his biggest challenges will be raising money to reduce the Smithsonian's heavy reliance on Congress for

See AFTER on next page

Dr. Oz leaving Oprah Winfrey for his own talk show

NEW YORK (AP)—A young production staffer at "The Dr. Oz Show" wasn't buttering up her boss when she took a bite out of a carrot as he approached in an elevator lobby recently.

Vegetables were on the menu. So were fruit, yogurt, whole-grain breads and natural peanut butter. True to a mission of making Americans healthier one at a time, Dr. Mehmet Oz banned all junk food backstage at his new talk show.

"The Dr. Oz Show," starring the heart surgeon and health evangelist, debuts Sept. 14. It's perhaps the most eagerly anticipated syndicated talk show since another Oprah Winfrey associate, Dr. Phil McGraw, went solo in 2002, said Bill Carroll, a market expert for Katz Television.

Oz has a sleek new studio at New York's 30 Rockefeller Plaza in the same room where Conan O'Brien worked before heading West. Its most fearsome element is the "truth tube," a platform that can display a person's weight, body fat and other health indicators, much like "The Biggest Loser" scale.

His goal is to make health information interesting and entertaining without trivializing it.

"There is no question we can save lives every day if we can motivate people to do what we're talking about," Oz said in a backstage conversation over lunch (salads, of course). "The challenge isn't what to say—because we know that—the challenge is how to say it so people are motivated."

He expects few celebrity guests, and no Winfrey visit is on the schedule. The show will typically open with a health "hot topic" like swine flu or immunization, and will end with audience questions. In between, Oz will try different ways to make health advice personal, recognizing that lectures don't work as well as stories viewers can relate to.

In one pre-taped episode, a woman brings her beer-bellied husband for a surprise "intervention." He listens to Oz describe how an unhealthy lifestyle was likely taking years off his life.

A woman who scrimps on sleep to take care of her family gets on a driving simulator while tired. She's reduced to tears and recognizes how sleeplessness affects more than herself when she "kills" six people, including a family of three, in accidents caused by dulled senses.

Besides controlling what his own staff eats, Oz has been secretly monitoring the food brought in to Jimmy Fallon's studio down the hall. Expect an unflattering public comparison.

AP

In this publicity image released by Harpo, Inc., Dr. Mehmet Oz is pictured during the production of "The Dr. Oz Show" in New York on Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2009.

"The crew is an experiment for us," Oz said. "If all I offer you is healthy food, you're either going to eat that stuff or you're not going to eat. And most people will eat. After a while, it becomes what you're used to eating. It's a little bit every day that makes a difference."

Oz envisions a "Let's Make a Deal" type game with four contestants to illustrate ways of curing vitamin D deficiency. One contestant opens a box with a "prize" of cod liver oil. Another reveals a picture of the sun, and wins a tropical vacation.

That's the tightrope Oz walks—fall off and he makes the serious seem silly. He's convinced this is the best way for people to remember what they've learned.

Carroll suggested Oz has the personality to make it work. The new show faces competition from "The Doctors," another health hour that premiered to modest success last season, but Carroll said there's room for both.

"The audiences can tell when you are real, and he is real," he said. "He's very likable. He's the person you wish was your doctor."

Oz had a decent enough career before television beckoned. He's a prominent surgeon with expertise is repairing heart valves. (Disclosure: His partner, Dr. Craig Smith, performed a quintuple bypass on this reporter two years ago.) He will continue to perform surgery one day a week.

Yet Oz noticed that he was getting more jazzed up persuading people they didn't need surgery than operating on them.

He landed a show, "Second Opinion," on the Discovery Channel and persuaded Winfrey to appear. "Before Oz went on Oprah, Oprah went on Oz," he said. That opened the door to Winfrey's media kingdom, resulting in 55 appearances on her talk show in five years, and eventually his own show. It's co-produced by Winfrey's Harpo Productions and Sony Pictures Television. He's contractually prohibited from airing in direct competition with her.

Oz likes to point out how real-life versions of Dr. Marcus Welby, the fictional doctor from a hit ABC series in the 1970s, are dying out—the ranks of general practitioners thinned by specialists, and the desire for high-tech solutions profound. The missing human touch is now often supplied by real-life TV doctors like ABC's Tim Johnson and CNN's Sanjay Gupta.

"I found myself going to work and taking care of people who wanted to get better who believed that their only path to salvation was through my scalpel," he said. "I can heal with steel. I know how to do that. But it's very disenfranchising when you realize the true solutions are outside the operating room."

Pixar wins lifetime award at Venice Film Festival

VENICE, Italy (AP)—The Venice Film Festival's red carpet was festooned with balloons on Sunday to mark the lifetime achievement award for director and producer John Lasseter and his crew of Pixar directors.

They were rewarded for their work creating a new generation of childhood memories populated with Nemo, Woody and Sulley. It is the first time in festival history that the award honors not just one filmmaker but an entire studio.

Pixar, founded in 1986 and based in northern California, pioneered digital computer animation and has made 10 feature films to date, four of which have won Oscars since the animation category was introduced in 2001.

"We really set out to deeply entertain an audience, not just children but adults as well," Lasseter told reporters Sunday.

Lasseter said he was "tremendously honored" that the festival chose to give the award to the team of five Pixar directors, including Brad Bird ("Ratatouille" and "The Incredibles"), Pete Docter ("Up" and "Monsters Inc."), Andrew Stanton ("Finding Nemo" and "Wall-E"), and Lee Unkrich ("Toy Story 3"). Lasseter directed the first two "Toy Story" movies and "Cars."

"Filmmaking and animation is one of the most collaborative art forms there is in the world, and it is never more collaborative than it is at Pixar," Lasseter said.

AP

Film director George Lucas flanked by characters from animated movie upon arrival for the presentation of the Golden Lion for life-time achievements at the 66th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009.

Lasseter posed with life-size Carl and Russell, the stars of Pixar's latest runaway hit "Up" on a red carpet imprinted with the Italian logos for Pixar's hits, "The Incredibles," "Up," "Finding Nemo" and the upcoming "Toy Story 3," before receiving the Golden Lion from George Lucas, who helped launch Pixar.

"I think anybody else when they sell a company and the company goes on to be very successful, they would feel like they missed out," Lasseter said. "George Lucas is so proud of us and we are so thankful to him. He is a true visionary."

To mark the occasion, the festival premiered 3D versions of "Toy Story" and "Toy Story 2," which are set for theatrical release in the U.S. later in the fall. Children given a rare invite to the festival usually reserved for adults grabbed up free kites and posed next to a life-size model of Woody made out of Legos. Some came dressed as scouts, in homage to Russell.

Pixar merged with Disney three years ago, making Lasseter chief creative for both Pixar and Disney animation, where he is reintroducing hand-drawn animation. "I felt like if there is a studio in the world who should be doing the highest quality hand-drawn animation, it is the studio that started it all, Disney," Lasseter said.

A few minutes of the first project, "The Princess and the Frog," was screening Sunday evening at Venice, marking the first time it will be seen outside of Pixar, Lasseter said.

An upcoming Pixar film breaks the studio mold of male characters as the central protagonist after its successful string of beloved male figures, from Nemo to Woody to Lightning McQueen. Lasseter said "The Bear and the Bow" is Pixar's first fairy tale, a mother-daughter story set in Scotland and directed by filmmaker Brenda Chapman.

"We believe very strongly in having really strong female characters," Lasseter said, then explaining why it hasn't happened yet: "I mean you are looking at a bunch of guys up here."

AFTER

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funding. Federal funds provide about 65 percent of the estimated $1 billion annual budget. And the outlook for private philanthropy is gloomy because of the recession.

Still, Clough has quietly begun work on the Smithsonian's first major capital campaign with the goal of raising well over $1 billion.

"We need more big ideas," he said. "I've talked to donors who say 'Hey, I'm really interested in the fact that you have resources to be an honest broker in the climate change debate ... and I would be willing to put up significant money to do that.'"

One thing he doesn't plan to change, though, is the free admission at the museums. The American people own those museums, he said.

Clough has a track record for transforming institutions, a distinction that earned a chapter in Thomas L. Friedman's best-selling book "The World is Flat." Friedman described how Clough's philosophy of attracting science students with artistic and creative interest raised Georgia Tech's graduation rate and encouraged more creativity in engineering. Clough's work over 14 years raised the school's academic profile.

That vision of fusing science with the arts makes him a good fit for the Smithsonian, which holds numerous art, history and cultural treasures, Smithsonian American Art Museum director Betsy Broun said.

And Clough brought a focus on younger audiences, she said.

For example, Clough has urged staffers to engage visitors on Twitter or other social networks and build online games that feature museum collections.

"I worry about museums becoming less relevant to society," Clough said. "While it's a magnificent thing that 25 million visits are made to our museums each year, there's still over 300 million people out there who aren't visiting. So how do we reach the other 300 million?"

Jamaican dancehall innovator dies in NY at 47

NEW YORK (AP)—Wycliffe Johnson, a keyboardist and producer known as "Steely" who helped to steer Jamaican music for nearly two decades and to modernize the dancehall genre, has died. He was 47.

Johnson died Tuesday at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital in Patchogue, N.Y., following a heart attack, longtime friend and fellow producer Cleveland Browne said Sunday.

Johnson, who lived in Kingston, Jamaica, had been diagnosed with kidney failure last December while in New York City, where he had sought specialized medical care, Browne said. Doctors told Johnson he had a blood clot in his brain.

Although Johnson was best known for helping to produce numerous hits in Jamaica during the 1980s and 1990s, he first drew acclaim as a keyboardist on Sugar Minott's 1978 album "Ghetto-ology," and later as a member of Roots Radics, a pioneering early 1980s dancehall band. As an 18-year-old, he played keyboards on Bob Marley's recording of "Trench Town."

Johnson then joined with Browne, and the duo became known as "Steely & Clevie." They went on to help transform dancehall—a rawer, more sparse variant of reggae—with their early embrace of digital studio technology.

Besides working with top Jamaican talent, the duo collaborated with global acts such as No Doubt and Heavy D. They also helped Sean Paul and Sasha on their 2004 chart-maker "I'm Still in Love With You."

Johnson was born Aug. 18, 1962, and had 10 brothers and sisters. He began playing the piano when he was 9 or 10, but had no formal musical training, said his mother, Alice Johnson.

By the time he was about 14, he was already playing in concerts with a band, she said. At one show, her son was dwarfed by all the other group members.

"He was the smallest one," his mother said Sunday. "And they took a jacket and put it on him, and because he was so short at the time, the jacket came right down to his foot."

Browne said that he and Johnson had been working on a tribute album of Jamaican reggae classics from the 1960s and 1970s, but that it was put on hold in late 2008 because of Johnson's declining health. Browne said he's unsure whether the album will ever be released.

Johnson was survived by five children. A service for him is scheduled for Sept. 12 at the Swallowfield Chapel in St. Andrew, Jamaica.

New novel, new movies in works for writer Sparks

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—So many projects, so much success.

That's the theme of the life of novelist Nicholas Sparks, whose latest novel, "The Last Song," ($24.99, Hachette Book Group) will be in bookstores Tuesday. If the title sounds familiar, that's because Sparks wrote the screenplay first after Miley Cyrus specifically said she wanted him to pen a movie for her. She's been filming the movie by the same name in Georgia.

That movie and at least one more, maybe two, based on Sparks' books will be released in 2010. The movie version of "Dear John" is scheduled for a February 2010 release, and "The Lucky One" could be on the big screen by next year, although filming hasn't started.

His personal life is going well, too, with a private school he started near top capacity for and the high school track team he has coached winning championships. He's moving back into a new, larger home that he built on the site of his previous home outside New Bern on the Trent River, some 110 miles southeast of Raleigh.

So, can he just humor the rest of us and give us a crumb about what's going wrong in his life? As it turns out, not really.

AP

In a Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008 file photo, author Nicholas Sparks attends the 'Nights In Rodanthe' world premiere at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York.

"All of these things are not straight-line-to-success things," he said in a phone interview. "You have all the downs that it takes to get there. There are frustrations and struggles with the track team, frustrations and struggles with the school, and frustrations and struggles with the house. We just keep trying and trying and do our best."

Although "The Last Song" began as a screenplay, Sparks says he wouldn't have agreed to write it unless he knew he could write a novel from the same idea.

AP: Did you like the process of writing the screenplay first, then the novel, instead of the other way around?

Sparks: The biggest disappointment was that, even though I knew what was going to happen, it didn't make writing the novel any easier. It was very disappointing to me. I wanted it to be easy. Writing a novel is always more difficult than writing a screenplay.

AP: The movie version of "The Last Song" was supposed to be filmed in North Carolina, but went to Georgia almost at the last minute. North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue was in Wilmington to announce the movie would be filmed there, but her news conference was canceled as Disney switched locations for the filming. What did you think of the change in location?

Sparks: I stay out of it. I spoke to the governor, and I did talk to the people at Disney. But in the end, they're the ones in control of the budget. I have to know my limits. It's not the first of my films to be filmed elsewhere.

AP: Do you just have to accept that lack of control?

Sparks: The only control is not to sell it in the first place.

AP: What did you think of the movie version of "Nights in Rodanthe"? (The movie, starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane, was filmed in North Carolina in 2007 and released last year).

Sparks: I loved it. I thought it was beautiful. The chemistry was terrific. And it did really well at the box office.

AP: Do you have a favorite movie based on a Nicholas Sparks' novel?

Sparks: I like all the movies that have been made from novels. I'm not putting anything out on that. I will say I have worked with Denise (producer Denise Di Novi) a lot—"Nights in Rodanthe," "Message in a Bottle," and "A Walk to Remember." And we're doing "The Lucky One" together.

Moore premieres new documentary in Venice

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Michael Moore says his film "Capitalism: A Love Story" is dedicated to "good people ... who've had their lives ruined" by the quest for profit.

After much success at Cannes, Moore premieres the movie Sunday in his first appearance at the Venice Film Festival. It was warmly received at a press showing Saturday evening and won positive reviews. Variety called it one of Moore's "best pics."

"I am personally affected by good people who struggle, who work hard and who've had their lives ruined by decisions that are made by people who do not have their best interest at heart, but who have the best interest of the bottom line, of the company, at heart," Moore told reporters Sunday.

The film features plenty of examples of lives shattered by corporate greed—but also some inspiring tales of workers who have rebelled.

According to Moore, "the revolt you think I am calling for has actually begun. It began Nov. 4," when President Barack Obama was elected.

There is the Chicago glass and window company whose employees barricaded themselves to demand their pay after management laid off all 250 employees when the bank line of credit dried up.

On the side of greed, Moore tells the story of a privately-run juvenile detention center in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, that paid off judges to lock up juvenile offenders. One boy said he had done little more than throw a piece of meat at his mother's boyfriend during a fight at the dinner table, and a teenage girl's offense was making fun of her school's vice principal on a Myspace page.

The film is filled with classic Moore gimmicks, like wrapping crime scene tape around landmark banks and Wall Street institutions. And there is the expected Moore grandstanding as he tries to make citizen arrests of bank CEOs, not getting past the sometimes amused security guards at the main entrance. By now, everyone sees him coming and knows who he is.

Moore said he considered himself a proxy for the "millions of Americans who would like to be placing crime scene tape around Wall Street."

The filmmaker is optimistic that unimagined change can happen, citing the unexpected fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and Nelson Mandela's election as the president of South Africa after 27 years in prison for his anti-apartheid activism.

"There are many things that have happened in the last 20 years that are just utterly surprising, so that I now believe anything can happen. People can revolt in good ways."

Moore said his expose on the health care system, "Sicko," helped trigger "a national debate about why we are the only Western industrialized country that does not have universal health care."

While "Capitalism" has a strong political message, Moore said his main purpose is to entertain with a film that "makes you laugh a little, or cry, or think. I am happy with all those results.

U.S. director Michael Moore and his wife Kathleen Glynn arrive for the premiere of the film 'Capitalism: a Love Story' at the 66th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009. AP

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Friday		4:15	7:30	9:45
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Monday	1:15	4:15	7:30	
Tue thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Gerald Butler, Amber Valletta
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
Set in the near future, a time when mind-control technology has taken society by storm. Humans control other humans in a mass-scale, multiplayer online game. Reclusive billionaire Ken Castle has created the controversial form of entertainment, "Slayers," a hugely popular game that allows millions to act out their innermost desires and fantasies - online - in front of a global audience. Gaming has evolved into a terrifying new dimension-mind control-manipulation-people playing people. At the center is Kable, the superstar and cult hero of "Slayers," the savage, ultra-violent first person shooter game.

Final Destination 4

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:30
Sat & Sun	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:30
Monday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Tue thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Bobby Campo, Shantel VanSanten
Supernatural • Rated R

Synopsis
On what should have been a fun-filled day at the races, Nick O'Bannon has a horrific premonition in which a bizarre sequence of events causes multiple race cars to crash, sending flaming debris into the stands, brutally killing his friends and causing the upper deck of the stands to collapse on him. When he comes out of this grisly nightmare Nick panics, persuading his girlfriend, Lori, and their friends, Janet and Hunt, to leave... escaping seconds before Nick's frightening vision becomes a terrible reality. Thinking they've cheated death, the group has a new lease on life, but unfortunately for Nick and Lori, it is only the beginning.

Inglourious Basterds

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Sat & Sun	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tue thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Brad Pitt, Diane Kruger
Political • Rated R

Synopsis
In the first year of the German occupation of France, Shosanna Dreyfus witnesses the execution of her family at the hand of Nazi Colonel Hans Landa. Shosanna narrowly escapes and flees to Paris where she forges a new identity as the owner and operator of a cinema. Elsewhere in Europe, Lieutenant Aldo Raine organizes a group of Jewish American soldiers to perform swift, shocking acts of retribution. Later known to their enemy as "the basterds," Raine's squad joins German actress and undercover agent Bridget von Hammersmark on a mission to take down the leaders of the Third Reich.

Shorts

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:55
Sat & Sun	1:05	4:10	7:15	9:55
Monday	1:05	4:10	7:15	
Tue thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Jimmy Bennett, Jake Short
Children • Rated PG

The Time Traveler's Wife

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Sat & Sun	1:25	4:20	7:05	9:35
Monday	1:25	4:20	7:05	
Tue thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana
Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

District 9

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:50
Sat & Sun	1:10	4:05	7:10	9:50
Monday	1:10	4:05	7:10	
Tue thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Sharito Copley, Jason Cope
Sci-Fi • Rated R

G.I. JOE

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Sat & Sun	1:20	4:30	7:25	9:40
Monday	1:20	4:30	7:25	
Tue thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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Rapper Ludacris gives away cars to contest winners

MORROW, Ga. (AP)—Talk about a one-man stimulus package: Grammy-winning rapper Ludacris has given away 20 cars to people who wrote about their struggles to keep their jobs for a lack of wheels of their own.

Ludacris said he was taken aback after reading thousands of essays by people struggling or unable to buy cars needed to get to and from work or find jobs. The 31-year-old rapper felt he could step in and move them ahead, partnering with a suburban Atlanta dealership for Sunday's giveaway.

"People are getting laid off, and now are looking for jobs," Ludacris said. "To be efficient, you need some transportation of your own to get there. That's why I wanted to give back to those who need it."

Each of the used vehicles included free gas for 30 days. Winning contestants were responsible for tags, registration, tax and insurance. About 4,000 contestants submitted a 300-word essay to the rapper's foundation, explaining why they deserved a car.

One of the most touching stories Ludacris read was by Mading Duor.

AP

Rapper Ludacris smiles as Ella Me Johnson reacts to being presented with keys to her car at Nissan South, Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009 in Morrow, Ga.

Duor described how he moved to the United States six years ago after his mother, father, and five brothers and sisters were killed in Sudan. The man also wrote that a son was killed by a drunken driver in Atlanta a few years back.

"His story touched my heart," Ludacris said. "He's endured so much in his life and he's still here standing. I'm very proud to have helped him."

Duor, 33, has been able to keep a steady job at a school, but each day he felt stressed about how he was going to get to work. No longer.

"I'm so happy, that I'm nervous," said Duor, who won a Nissan Maxima. "When I look at my new car, I say to myself, 'Is this really happening?'"

Crystal Beauford, a single mother who used to ride the bus to two jobs and school, now has a Saturn Ion. The 26-year-old college student doesn't know how to drive the stick-shift vehicle, but said she'll learn.

"This is going to help me out so much," Beauford said. "It's a blessing."

Ludacris won Grammys for Best Rap Album for "Release Therapy" and Best Rap Song for "Money Maker."

Alien abduction thriller set in remote Alaska town

NOME, Alaska (AP)—Universal Pictures has said it will release an alien abduction film this fall that plays off of decades of unexplained disappearances and deaths in this old Gold Rush town along the Bering Sea.

"The Fourth Kind" is being marketed as a "dramatization" of real events—based on footage from a psychologist who stumbled upon "the most disturbing evidence of alien abduction ever documented" while interviewing traumatized people in Nome, a western Alaska town of 3,500.

But even if the movie is fiction, the vanishings are real.

After years of rumors that Nome had become a dangerous place for travelers from Inupiat and Siberian Yupik villages, local officials in 2005 released a list of the city's disappearances and deaths dating back to the 1960s.

The FBI decided to review two dozen cases, eventually determining that excessive alcohol consumption and the winter climate were a common link. Unlike other commercial hubs in rural Alaska, Nome is a "wet" city, with bars and liquor stores.

Some of the dead were killed by exposure or from falling off a jetty into the frigid Snake River, authorities said at the time.

Savoonga resident Delbert Pungowiyi, however, suspects racially motivated, serial killings are to blame in at least some of the deaths, including that of his uncle, who flew to Nome in 1998 to buy a snowmachine and never came home.

'Final Destination' sustains fear factor with $12M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fear has trumped romance at the box office over Labor Day weekend.

The Warner Bros. fright flick "The Final Destination" remained the No. 1 movie for the second-straight weekend with $12.4 million for the first three days of the long holiday weekend. "The Final Destination" raised its 10-day total to $47.6 million.

It came in ahead of Sandra Bullock's romantic comedy "All About Steve," a 20th Century Fox release which debuted in second-place with $11.2 million from Friday to Sunday. Bullock plays a woman who sets out on the road in pursuit of her soul mate.

Among other new movies, Lionsgate's action tale "Gamer" debuted at No. 4 with $9 million. The movie stars Gerard Butler in a thriller about real humans controlled by players in lethal games.

Opening at No. 10 with $4.2 million was Miramax's comedy "Extract," starring Jason Bateman as a businessman whose personal life heats up just as he's trying to sell his flavor-extract company to General Mills.

Studios will release estimates for the four-day weekend on Monday.

Michael Jackson's glove auctioned in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—A bejeweled white glove Michael Jackson tossed to an Australian fan more than a decade ago sold at auction Sunday for 57,600 Australian dollars ($48,400), almost twice the estimated selling price.

Warwick Stone, a buyer for the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, beat out five other bidders for the late King of Pop's glove, said Charlotte Stanes, spokeswoman for the Melbourne auction house Bonhams and Goodman. The estimated selling price before the auction was AU$30,000.

"We are very happy with the result," Stanes said. "It's the first glove we know about in Australia."

Bonhams and Goodman said it was the first auction of a Michael Jackson glove since his death on June 25 this year at age 50.

Jackson visited Australia in 1996 as part of his HIStory world tour. While in Sydney, he attended the Australian premiere for the film "Ghosts," in which he had a starring role. At the end of the screening, he tossed the glove at audience member Bill Hibble, who has since died, said national head of collectables Giles Moon.

Calif. house owned by Groucho Marx for sale

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—A Beverly Hills house owned for two decades by Groucho Marx is on the market for $12.9 million.

The one-story contemporary home was designed in 1956 by architect Wallace Neff for the comic actor and his wife, actress Eden Hartford. The 6,000-square-foot house sits on an acre and offers views of a canyon and downtown Los Angeles.

In the 1930s and 1940s, Marx made a number of comic films with his brothers, including "Duck Soup," "Horse Feathers" and "A Night at the Opera."

He lived in the house until his death in 1977 at the age of 86.

Defunct Mass. theater's show to open in Broadway

BEVERLY, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts regional music theater that has gone out of business will finally see one of its original musicals reach Broadway.

"Memphis," which premiered at the North Shore Music Theater in 2003, will open Oct. 19 on Broadway.

The musical tells the story of a white Memphis DJ who brings "race music" to the segregated South.

Former theater artistic director Jon Kimbell tells The Salem News it's the first time in the theater's 54-year history that one of its shows has made it to Broadway.

The defunct Beverly theater is scheduled to be sold at an Oct. 1 foreclosure auction. Officials announced in June that it had to close due to a $10 million debt.

"Memphis" played in LaJolla, Calif., and Seattle before earning a spot on Broadway.

Tim Gunn: Comic crimefighter against fashion evils

NEW YORK (AP)—Tim Gunn is taking his fight against fashion crimes from the workrooms of "Project Runway" to the pages of a comic book. And, wow, does he get to wear a power suit.

The "Loaded Gunn" story line—to save an exhibit of extraordinary superhero clothes from a cadre of villains—is part of a book that reintroduces a group of Marvel's high-fashion "Models Inc." comic characters from the 1960s.

"It's a little `America's Next Top Model'—without Tyra (Banks)—and a little `Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,'" says Marvel editor Charlie Beckerman.

The Gunn project evolved on a whim, but it turned out Gunn was a childhood comic fan and a good sport, Beckerman says.

Gunn says the experience has been "the most bizarre thing."

"It's exciting and exhilarating, but bizarre. When they came to me, I said, `I'm about to turn 56 years old. Are they crazy?' But it kept revealing itself in layers and next thing, I'm wearing the `Iron Man' suit. I was dumbstruck."

Personally, Gunn says he always fancied himself more of a Batman type, but he's pleased with the result.

"Most superheroes are fighting the same thing—good vs. evil—but who's taking on crimes against fashion? Me!"

AP

In this cartoon released by Marvel Comics shows a scene from "Models, INC #1" where Tim Gunn joins forces with Iron Man. The first issue of the comic book is slated for release in August.

The biggest offense, hands down: clothes that don't fit properly, Gunn says. And, if he had the truly incredible power to remove one item from closets all around the world, no question it would be Crocs.

"It's the No. 1 fashion crime item—and I see it a lot," Gunn says.

Singer Brittani Senser keeps Minneapolis home base

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Brittani Senser has deep roots in Minneapolis, where her father played for the Minnesota Vikings and where the singer grew up.

But it's her hometown's musical heritage that keeps her based there as she pursues her fledgling R&B-pop career.

"I live in a city that's full of musicians and singers. I take pride in them, including Prince, the Time," she said.

She has only to drop into a local club to see one of her favorite singers, Stokley Williams.

"It's inspiring. I'm in good company," said Senser, who recently visited Los Angeles for club appearances promoting her first album, "After Love" (MN Finest Records/Bungalo Records/UMVD).

AP

In this undated publicity image released by Bungalo/Universal Records, recording artist Brittani Senser is shown.

She's scheduled to sing the national anthem Sept. 26 for the Detroit Tigers at Chicago White Sox game, said her spokeswoman, Belinda Foster.

Senser's dad, Joe Senser, who played tight end for the Vikings in the 1980s and now owns a successful chain of sports bar-restaurants around the Twin Cities, provided the soundtrack for her childhood: She grew up listening to his Motown albums.

She also gained inspiration from his athletic success.

"He is a perfect example that if you follow your dream, your dream can come true if you work hard and have a passion for it," Senser said.

Mother-in-law keeps mum about name-calling umbrage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: During the 10 years I have been with my husband, I have called my mother-in-law "Martha." I have just learned that she has been harboring resentment about it because she hadn't given me "permission" to call her by her first name. Apparently she would like me to call her "Ms. Smith." I didn't hear it from her, but from my new sister-in-law who does call her Ms. Smith and has been instructed to continue doing so.

I don't remember our first meeting or when I started calling her Martha. I had no idea she has been offended this entire time. Now I'm not sure what to do. Should I ask her about it? We're not particularly close, and it would be an awkward conversation. My husband is no help. He thinks we're both being silly.

THE OTHER MS. SMITH

DEAR O.M.S.: Martha appears to be not only off-putting, but also intimidating. Rather than speak her mind and make her preferences known, she nurses grievances in silence and talks behind people's backs. Your cowardly husband should admit there's a problem and try to build bridges instead of dismissing your concerns as "silly." (Does he call her "Ms. Smith," too?)

Pick up the phone and call Martha. Tell her what your sister-in-law said and calmly ask if it's true. If she says yes, ask why she didn't tell you herself years ago—because if she had, you would have respected her wishes. Then, with a smile in your voice, assure her that "Ms. Smith" is what she'll be hearing in the future. (At least that's what you'll call her to her face.) It shouldn't cause a problem because you're not particularly close, and I assume your chats and contacts with her are infrequent.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been happily married for 16 years. We have one son, age 12. While writing our wills, my husband told me that his wish is to be cremated and his ashes scattered in the ocean off the beach near where he grew up.

I'd like us to be together after we have both passed on, but his beach holds no fond memories for me. I would much prefer to be buried in our local cemetery with a headstone so our son can come to "visit" both of us. I don't want to spend eternity in a cemetery plot without my husband. Any suggestions?

PLANNING AHEAD IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR PLANNING AHEAD: Yes, one would be that you and your spouse continue talking about this until you can reach a meeting of the minds regarding the disposition of your remains. If you can't agree, then what happens to them will be the decision of the surviving spouse.

Another thought: You are basing your preference on what your son may—or may not—want to do after he reaches adulthood. While many people find comfort in visiting their parents' graves, others find the idea depressive. Also, your son may wind up with a career that takes him to Texas, California, Hawaii or even farther away from the town in which he is being raised.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What is the proper letter salutation for a married couple where the husband has recently undergone gender reassignment surgery? (They were "John and Millie Jones.")

WONDERING IN KEY WEST

DEAR WONDERING: Because the husband is no longer John Jones and is now "Linda," for example, I would address the envelope to Ms. Linda Jones and Ms. Millie Jones—placing their names in alphabetical order. And in the salutation I would write, "Dear Linda and Millie."

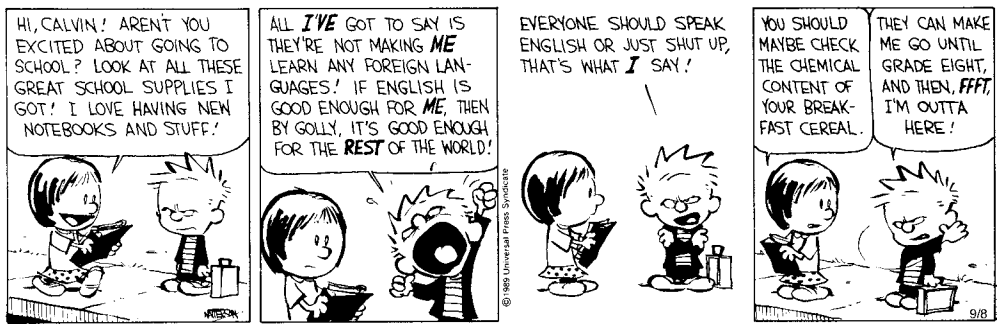
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby–Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, CALVIN! AREN'T YOU EXCITED ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL? LOOK AT ALL THESE GREAT SCHOOL SUPPLIES I GOT! I LOVE HAVING NEW NOTEBOOKS AND STUFF!
ALL I'VE GOT TO SAY IS THEY'RE NOT MAKING ME LEARN ANY FOREIGN LANGUAGES! IF ENGLISH IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME, THEN BY GOLLY, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD!
EVERYONE SHOULD SPEAK ENGLISH OR JUST SHUT UP, THAT'S WHAT I SAY!
YOU SHOULD MAYBE CHECK THE CHEMICAL CONTENT OF YOUR BREAKFAST CEREAL.
THEY CAN MAKE ME GO UNTIL GRADE EIGHT, AND THEN, FFFT, I'M OUTTA HERE!
9/8

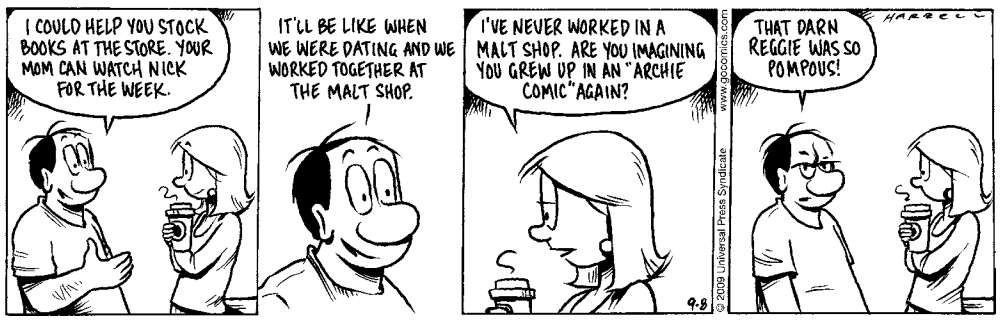
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LIZ AND I WOULD LIKE TO BE ALONE, GARFIELD
I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY
I'D BE EMBARRASSED TO BE SEEN WITH HIM TOO, LADY
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
www.garfield.com
JIM DAVIS 9-8

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I COULD HELP YOU STOCK BOOKS AT THE STORE. YOUR MOM CAN WATCH NICK FOR THE WEEK.
IT'LL BE LIKE WHEN WE WERE DATING AND WE WORKED TOGETHER AT THE MALT SHOP.
I'VE NEVER WORKED IN A MALT SHOP. ARE YOU IMAGINING YOU GREW UP IN AN "ARCHIE COMIC" AGAIN?
THAT DARN REGGIE WAS SO POMPOUS!
www.gocomics.com
9-8

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

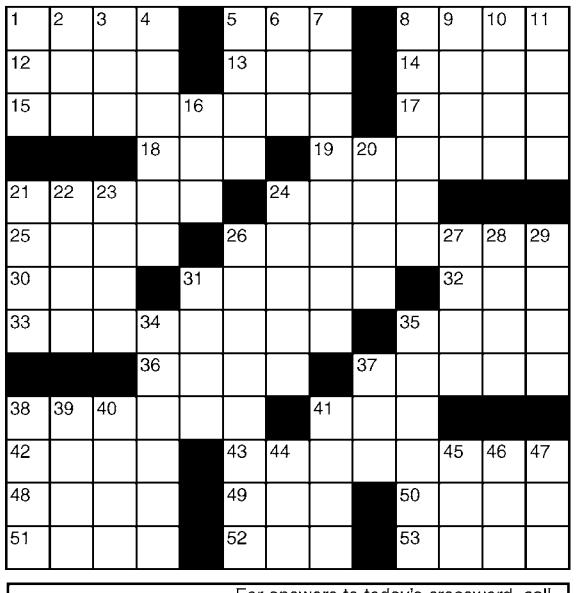
ACROSS
1 Philandering sort
5 — Khan
8 Tablespoonful, maybe
12 Right on the map?
13 Gist
14 State with conviction
15 Parentheses' kin
17 Vast
18 Chop
19 Beauty pageant adornments
21 Refuge
24 Proscribes
25 Yale students
26 Uncomplimentary remark
30 Scooted
31 Where the action is
32 Tramcar filler
33 Crashing waves
35 Tatters
36 Prejudice
37 Pack to the future?
38 Insist on
41 Anti
42 Grand story
43 Part of NYC
48 Lima's land
49 "— Town"
50 Stead
51 Unisex shirts
52 Deleted
53 Greek vowels

DOWN
1 CSA soldier
2 Rowing need
3 "Born in the —"
4 Engraves
5 From the top
6 Eviscerate
7 Doesn't vote
8 Upholstery fabric
9 Finished
10 Videogame name
11 Eventful periods
16 Trivia whiz Jennings
20 Oldster from 48-Across
21 KFC additive
22 Winged
23 Tarzan's transport
24 Fox and Rabbit of literature
26 Size comparative, once
27 Sow's mate
28 Jason's ship
29 Criterion
31 Related
34 Erstwhile calculator
35 Irritate
37 Excessively
38 Subdivision (Abbr.)
39 Duel tool
40 Muck's partner
41 String
44 Regret
45 Set afire
46 Verily
47 Greek consonants

Solution time: 21 mins.

W	A	Y	■	A	R	O	M	A	■	Q	E	D
O	R	E	■	C	O	R	E	R	■	U	K	E
K	I	N	G	C	O	B	R	A	■	E	E	N
■	■	■	N	O	M	■	G	R	E	E	D	Y
A	B	J	U	R	E	■	E	A	R	N	■	■
L	E	A	■	D	R	Y	■	T	A	B	L	E
T	A	C	T	■	S	A	C	■	S	E	E	D
A	N	K	H	S	■	P	O	R	■	E	N	E
■	■	K	E	E	L	■	N	E	E	S	O	N
O	R	N	E	R	Y	■	N	E	B	■	■	■
V	I	I	■	A	C	E	O	F	B	A	S	E
E	L	F	■	P	R	A	T	E	■	G	E	M
N	E	E	■	H	A	T	E	R	■	E	A	U

Yesterday's answer 9-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonathan Taylor Thomas, 28; Pink, 30; David Arquette, 38; Neko Case, 38

Happy Birthday: Put more effort into making money and less into spending. A change in the way you do even your basic everyday chores will lead to a little more in the bank. You can make headway if you put a new spin on your old ideas. A residential move will also help you out financially. Your numbers are 4, 8, 15, 24, 30, 34, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You mustn't brood over things you cannot change. It's what's ahead that counts and will determine what happens in the future. Your effort to make someone you love happy will pay off. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): It's a fact that you have surrounded yourself with a friendly atmosphere conducive to helping you think about your current choices. You cannot let anyone make your mind up for you. Do what makes you most comfortable. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Put your efforts into a project or job that will enable you to get ahead. A little romance late in the day will help ease your stress. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make some alterations at home to make your life easier. You can renovate or even make a residential move that will help to ease any stress you've been experiencing. If you don't feel right about what you're being asked to do, say so. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have a good sense of what needs to be done and the ability to complete and compete. Your style and far-reaching ideas will stand out and grab the interest of someone who can turn what you have into a masterpiece. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can expect to experience some interesting adjustments made by individuals who are aiming to please and trying to make a difference to a cause or project you believe in. A hectic schedule may require you to do some work from home. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll face opposition that can turn ugly if you get all worked up without getting your facts straight. Take a different approach. A solution that is a little out of the ordinary, but sound, will show how talented and valuable you are. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make plans to get away or at least enjoy a day away from your usual routine. You'll be motivated by the people you encounter. A problem with someone you love will give you cause for concern. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't initiate change at home. You will have enough to do with the additional responsibilities brought on by others. Focus on love, romance and travel and you will bypass some of the matters being blown out of proportion. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can buy and sell belongings and come out a winner. An agreement or contract can be formulated and signed as well as taking care or updating any pending legal proceedings. Clear up old matters and begin new endeavors. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't judge anyone based on hearsay. A partnership may be in question but if you find out the truth, you can prevent a sorrowful outcome. Your insight and diligence will highlight your capabilities and loyalty to those you deal with. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Change is upon you and it's up to you to make sure that whatever takes place, you are prepared and ready to make the most of it. A partnership will play out in your favor and a chance to develop something you've been wanting to work on will come into play. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have tenacity and are sophisticated and determined. You have great insight, vision and timing.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				1				4
	3		7					
6	9	7		8				3
			3			1		
7	5						8	6
		8			2			
3				5		4	7	2
					9		6	
4				2				

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	4	1	5	3	6	2	9
6	3	1	2	7	9	4	5	8
9	5	2	4	8	6	1	7	3
2	1	5	6	4	8	9	3	7
3	9	6	7	2	5	8	1	4
4	8	7	9	3	1	5	6	2
5	4	9	3	1	7	2	8	6
7	2	8	5	6	4	3	9	1
1	6	3	8	9	2	7	4	5

Difficulty Level ★ 9/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ON THE RADIO **Solution: 7 letters**

N	N	A	Y	T	I	R	B	E	L	E	C	T	M	N
O	G	N	D	S	S	P	O	N	S	O	R	S	C	O
I	I	N	I	V	K	A	R	T	I	P	S	O	I	I
T	E	O	S	S	E	R	C	O	P	J	O	H	N	T
A	R	U	C	V	T	R	O	D	M	L	O	R	H	A
C	O	N	U	Y	O	S	T	W	A	O	A	K	T	T
U	F	C	S	O	T	I	E	I	T	O	T	Y	E	S
D	R	E	S	I	S	I	C	U	S	E	R	I	G	S
E	E	M	M	W	V	R	N	E	G	I	N	B	O	G
R	Q	E	E	R	E	E	O	U	S	O	N	G	S	N
U	U	N	E	M	F	P	M	C	M	R	R	G	S	I
T	E	T	M	U	N	O	(T)	O	K	M	A	I	I	K
X	N	O	N	E	E	R	F	(O)	H	N	O	T	P	O
I	C	N	N	O	I	T	C	E	(L)	E	S	C	S	O
M	Y	T	E	I	R	A	V	M	U	(S)	I	C	G	C

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Yesterday's Answer: Familiar

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New mother Clijsters beats Venus

NEW YORK (AP)—A half-hour after getting past Venus Williams in a three-set tussle at the U.S. Open, Kim Clijsters had her hands full again.

Juggling an energy drink, a bottle of water and a snack, Clijsters was trying to keep an eye on her 18-month-old daughter, Jada, as the tyke scurried around the players' lounge.

Better keep the nanny on call: Mommy's got more work to do at Flushing Meadows.

Playing by far her biggest match since coming back after 2 1/2 years away from tennis, Clijsters knocked off the No. 3-seeded Williams 6-0, 0-6, 6-4 Sunday in a match of wild momentum swings to reach the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

"It's still kind of hard to believe. But then again, I'm not trying to get carried away with it all," the 26-year-old Belgian said. "Just trying to focus on what I have to do, because the tournament's still going. I just want to keep focusing on my tennis."

And some tennis it is. Against Williams, a seven-time major champion, Clijsters displayed the same sort of booming groundstrokes and all-over-the-place court coverage that helped her win the 2005 U.S. Open and briefly reach No. 1 in the rankings before leaving the tour.

Only two mothers have won a Grand Slam singles title; the last was Evonne Goolagong Cawley at Wimbledon in 1980. Clijsters will be in the semifinals if she beats No. 18 Li Na of China.

"With the kind of training that she's put in, I knew this wasn't just for fun," said Clijsters' husband, Brian Lynch, an American who ended his professional basketball career in Belgium when she decided to unretire. "She was trying to make something happen here."

Consider that done, even if Williams appeared slightly hobbled at times by her heavily bandaged left knee, and her mother, Oracene Price, said afterward: "We all know she's just trying to go as far as she can. I don't know if she should have done that."

"I wasn't able to play 100 percent," Williams said.

Still, she went back out on court later Sunday, teaming with her younger sister Serena to win a third-round doubles match. The No. 2-seeded Serena is still defending her title in the singles tournament—hasn't dropped a set yet, even—after taking the last 10 games of a 6-2, 6-0 victory over No. 22 Daniela Hantuchova.

Serena Williams' bid for a 12th Grand Slam title will continue with a quarterfinal against No. 10 Flavia Pennetta of Italy, who saved six match points en route to eliminating No. 7 Vera Zvonareva 3-6, 7-6 (6), 6-0 at night.

Williams-Clijsters was the main attraction Sunday, and the biggest piece of news elsewhere came when Rafael Nadal sought treatment from a trainer for a stomach muscle problem.

The third-seeded Nadal, trying to complete a career Grand Slam with a U.S. Open title, refused to talk about his health after beating No. 32 Nicolas Almagro 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.

"I don't want to talk about injuries," Nadal said. "Sorry. No, no. I am a little bit tired to talk about injuries."

His next opponent, No. 13 Gael Monfils, advanced when Jose Acasuso quit because of left knee pain while trailing 6-3, 6-4, 1-0.

AP

Kim Clijsters, of Belgium, returns to Venus Williams, of the United States, in the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009.

No. 24 Juan Carlos Ferrero, the French Open champion and U.S. Open runner-up in 2003, moved on when his foe, No. 9 Gilles Simon, stopped playing because of a right knee injury, while winners included No. 2 Andy Murray, No. 6 Juan Martin del Potro, No. 7 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, No. 11 Fernando Gonzalez and No. 16 Marin Cilic.

Murray overwhelmed 195th-ranked Taylor Dent of Newport Beach, Calif., 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 in Sunday's last match. The loss ended an inspiring run by Dent, who once was ranked as high as 21st, then was told by doctors he'd never play on tour again after a series of back operations.

Clijsters stepped away from the game in May 2007 after a series of injuries. She got married later that year, and gave birth to Jada in February 2008.

"I'm glad I made that choice," she said Sunday, "because a lot of beautiful things came out of it."

To hear Clijsters tell it, she never gave a shred of thought to ending her retirement until being asked to participate in exhibition matches under the new roof on Wimbledon's Centre Court in May. Eager to acquit herself well, she began working out and practicing—and the desire to compete for real came surging back.

Her first official match was Aug. 10—a win over 2007 Wimbledon runner-up Marion Bartoli—and because Clijsters only entered two tournaments before arriving in New York, she still isn't ranked by the WTA. She needed a wild-card invitation to be able to play in the U.S. Open, and now is the first such woman to make the quarterfinals.

"She's come back fresh, rejuvenated and just ready to play and eager to play," observed Price, "and seeing the value of it more so than she did when she left."

Clijsters credits her time away with improving her mental strength on the court, and it came in handy on a cloudy, windy afternoon.

Williams got off to an inauspicious start, putting in only 3 of 12 first serves in the opening game, in which she double-faulted twice and sprayed shots wildly. Clijsters took the first six games, Williams took the next seven, then Clijsters the next three.

"Very weird, right?" is how Clijsters described those ebbs and flows.

Indeed, there hadn't been a 6-0, 0-6 start to a women's match at the U.S. Open since 1975.

Clijsters' forehand went away in the second set, then returned with great effectiveness in the third. Consecutive winners off that wing helped her gain the only service break of the final set, one that put her up 2-1 when Williams double-faulted.

With the crowd pulling for the Belgian more than the American, Clijsters erased two break points while serving for the match, then ended it with a 101 mph service winner.

Yes, Mom's still got it.

"Tennis is a great sport, but I'm just happy that we have a family and I can balance both," Clijsters said in an on-court interview, drawing a roar from fans.

After noting that Jada isn't concerned with her wins or losses, Clijsters elicited more yells of support when asked about changes she noticed when returning to the sport.

"I only just started watching tennis at the start of this year, to be honest," she replied. "I didn't really have that much time with a baby running around, and I was happy just to sleep when she was sleeping."

What parent can't relate to that?

Chargers Merriman arrested in domestic dispute

SAN DIEGO (AP)—San Diego Chargers star outside linebacker Shawne Merriman was arrested Sunday and accused of choking and restraining his girlfriend, reality TV star Tila Tequila, as she tried to leave his suburban home.

Tequila, 27, signed a citizen's arrest warrant, charging Merriman with battery and false imprisonment, San Diego County Sheriff's Lt. Gary Steadman said.

Both are felonies.

Deputies responded about 3:45 a.m. to Merriman's house in Poway, north of San Diego, after a woman called to say she was choked by the player and thrown to the ground when she tried to leave, Sheriff's Department spokesman Jan Caldwell said at a news conference.

Merriman's attorney, Todd Macaluso, disputed Tequila's story and said he's confident Merriman won't be charged by the District Attorney's Office.

"There was absolutely no wrongdoing on the part of Mr. Merriman," Macaluso told The Associated Press by phone. "He essentially was doing what was appropriate under the circumstances in trying to protect the safety of Miss Tequila. There were numerous eyewitnesses that will support his version of the events that transpired at his home."

Merriman, 25, was taken into custody and booked into the central jail at about 8:30 a.m. He was released shortly after 11 a.m.

Tequila was taken to a hospital. Her condition was not immediately available.

Caldwell said deputies determined Tequila had been drinking.

Asked if Merriman was trying to keep Tequila from driving drunk, Macaluso said: "We don't want to comment on her conduct. The bottom line is, he did everything in his power to ensure her safety. He hopes she comes forth and tells the truth."

Caldwell said she wasn't sure if Merriman had been drinking. Macaluso said witnesses he spoke with said Merriman had ordered water three or four times when his group was at a downtown San Diego club before going to his house. The attorney said none of Merriman's teammates were at his house.

Tequila, whose real name is Tila Nguyen, is best known for "A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila," which ran for two seasons on MTV. The bisexual dating show featured men and women vying for Tequila's affections. She has also modeled for Playboy and other men's magazines.

Patriots trade DL Richard Seymour to Raiders

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—The Oakland Raiders took a big step toward improving their struggling run defense by acquiring five-time Pro Bowl defensive lineman Richard Seymour from the New England Patriots on Sunday.

The move does not come without its risks as the Raiders gave up a first-round pick in 2011, which could be in the top 10 based on Oakland's recent history, to acquire a lineman who turns 30 next month and is in the final year of a contract paying him $3.7 million this season.

Raiders owner Al Davis wanted immediate help for a defense that has struggled to stop the run in recent seasons. Since going to the Super Bowl following the 2002 season, Oakland has had the worst run defense in the NFL, allowing 141.7 yards per game on the ground and 122 touchdowns rushing. The Raiders have allowed a 100-yard rusher in more than half of their games the past three years.

"It shows the commitment of this organization," defensive end Greg Ellis said. "You can't guarantee we're going to have a great, great season this year. But the commitment is definitely there so players don't have to question that when you're making those kinds of moves to make something happen and hopefully win right now."

Seymour has been a stalwart in New England since being drafted sixth overall in 2001. He played on three Super Bowl winners with the Patriots, recording 39 career sacks and being selected to the Pro Bowl for five straight seasons beginning in 2002.

"From nearly the day he arrived in 2001, Richard Seymour established himself as one of our premier players for nearly a decade," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Sunday. "His presence has been felt as a force on the field, a respected man off it and a multiyear champion."

The move is only the latest as the Patriots continue to get younger on defense.

Linebacker Mike Vrabel was traded to Kansas City in the offseason, safety Rodney Harrison retired, and more recently Tedy Bruschi officially called it a career after 13 seasons. Seymour was the last member of the 2001 Super Bowl championship defense still with New England.

Earlier this summer, Oakland sent two-time Pro Bowl defensive end Derrick Burgess to New England for a pair of mid-round draft picks. The Patriots also acquired receiver Randy Moss from Oakland in 2007 for a fourth-round pick, and the teams have swapped draft picks in recent years.

"Any transaction we make is with the goal of what is best for our team and, as difficult as it is to part ways with a player of Richard's stature, many factors were taken into account when we considered this trade," Belichick said.

Inge hits grand slam in 9th, Tigers rally

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Brandon Inge hit a grand slam in the ninth inning as the Detroit Tigers picked apart Tampa Bay's bullpen to beat the Rays 5-3 Sunday for a three-game sweep in the American League.

Detroit won its sixth in a row and opened a seven-game lead over Minnesota in the AL Central.

Rays starter Wade Davis pitched seven sharp innings in his major league debut, giving up one run and three hits and striking out nine. Detroit overcame a 3-1 lead in the ninth when Tampa Bay tried five relievers, with Inge capping the comeback by connecting with one out against Russ Springer (0-3) for his fifth career slam.

Athletics 5, Mariners 2

At Oakland, California, Ichiro Suzuki's 2,000th major league hit was overshadowed by the go-ahead grand slam Scott Hairston hit in the seventh inning to help Oakland beat Seattle.

Suzuki reached the milestone on a double in the first inning against Gio Gonzalez (5-5).

The Mariners All-Star outfielder, who accumulated 1,278 hits in Japan, became the second-fastest player to 2,000 hits, recording it in his 1,402 major league game. Al Simmons did it in 1,390 games.

Angels 7, Royals 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Joe Saunders won his third straight start and Bobby Abreu drove in three runs as the Los Angeles Angels beat Kansas City.

The Angels opened a 5Ω-game lead over Texas in the AL West.

Los Angeles are 9-0 against the Royals this season and have won 33 of the past 43 games.

Blue Jays 14, Yankees 8

At Toronto, rookie Randy Ruiz hit an RBI single during an eight-run fifth, then was hit in the face by a pitch later in the inning as Toronto beat New York.

Ruiz joined the growing list of hitters to get beaned in recent weeks. Down for a few minutes after being hit by Josh Towers, Ruiz walked off the field without assistance and left the game.

Red Sox 6, White Sox 1

At Chicago, Jon Lester allowed four hits over seven shutout innings, and Mike Lowell and Victor Martinez homered as Boston beat Chicago.

Boston increased its AL wild-card lead to three games over Texas.

Lester (12-7) walked two and struck out eight, giving him 204 for the season.

Indians 3, Twins 1

At Cleveland, Michael Brantley hit a tiebreaking single with two outs in the seventh inning to lead David Huff and Cleveland over Minnesota.

Brantley's grounder into right field scored Luis Valbuena from second and gave the Indians a 2-1 lead. Brantley was caught in a rundown when first baseman Michael Cuddyer cut off the throw home, but made it to second safely and scored on Asdrubal Cabrera's double.

Orioles 7, Rangers 0

At Baltimore, Jeremy Guthrie pitched seven innings of six-hit ball as Baltimore beat Texas to earn its second series win since the All-Star break.

Brian Roberts, Jeff Fiorentino and Chad Moeller each had two hits and two RBIs for the Orioles, who took two of three. Baltimore's only other series win since mid-July was against the Chicago White Sox on Aug. 21-23.

AP

Detroit Tiger's Miguel Cabrera (24) scores from third after Brandon Inge hits grand slam home run during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays in St. Petersburg, Fla., Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009.

Rockies 13, Diamondbacks 5

At Denver, Chris Young's three home runs for Arizona were not enough as Seth Smith connected twice and drove in a career-high five runs to lead the Colorado Rockies to a win and a three-game sweep in the National League.

Ian Stewart and Carlos Gonzalez homered and Yorvit Torrealba doubled twice, helping Colorado extend its NL wild-card lead to two games over San Francisco.

Nationals 5, Marlins 4

At Washington, Ryan Zimmerman hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to end Washington's eight-game losing streak.

Zimmerman's drive into the red seats in left-center field capped Washington's three-run ninth. Willie Harris started the rally with a leadoff homer against Leo Nunez (4-5) and Cristian Guzman followed with an infield hit to set up Zimmerman's fifth career game-ending homer.

Brewers 2, Giants 1, 12 innings

At Milwaukee, Prince Fielder hit a solo homer with one out in the 12th inning and the Brewers, helped by a triple play, beat the Giants.

Fielder connected against Merkin Valdez (2-1) for his 37th homer of the season. He untucked his shirt before reaching second base and jumped on home plate as his teammates fell over backward in unison in a choreographed celebration.

Reds 4, Braves 2, 12 innings

At Atlanta, Micah Owings walked off the field after getting beaned with the bases loaded in the 12th inning as Cincinnati beat Atlanta to pick up its seventh consecutive win.

Owings (7-12), who pitched two scoreless innings, was hit on the batting helmet by an 0-1 fastball from Kenshin Kawakami.

Pirates 6, Cardinals 5

At Pittsburgh, Garrett Jones hit a game-ending RBI single to cap a two-run rally in the ninth as Pittsburgh avoided a record-setting loss at least for one day, stopping a nine-game skid.

The Pirates, who would have assured themselves of a record 17th consecutive losing season with a loss, won after falling behind 5-4 on Rick Ankiel's pinch-hit homer off Jesse Chavez (1-4) in the top of the ninth.

Mets 4, Cubs 2

At New York, Daniel Murphy homered, tripled and drove in four runs to back Mike Pelfrey's eight efficient innings as New York downed Chicago.

Pelfrey (10-10) allowed five hits in his longest outing this year and Murphy finished a double shy of the cycle.

Astros 4, Phillies 3

At Houston, Bud Norris pitched six efficient innings for his first win in a month and Carlos Lee had a two-run single for Houston.

Michael Bourn stole two bases and scored twice for the Astros, who have won seven of their last eight home games. Lance Berkman and Miguel Tejada each drove in a run.

Padres 4, Dodgers 3

At Los Angeles, Kevin Kouzmanoff drove in San Diego's first three runs and Adrian Gonzalez homered in a victory over Los Angeles.

Tim Stauffer (4-6) won his third straight start, allowing three runs and seven hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Stricker, Goosen, O'Hair nudge ahead in Boston

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—Steve Stricker was among eight players who had at least a share of the lead Sunday in the Deutsche Bank Championship. He also knew how much each shot mattered.

Standing in the 18th fairway, a stiff breeze in his face and the front of the green 230 yards away, about 5 yards longer than the maximum distance he usually gets out of his hybrid. He went for it anyway, and it paid off.

He was filled with uncertainty until the ball barely cleared a creek and bounced up to 5 feet for eagle, giving Stricker a 6-under 65 and a share of the lead with Retief Goosen and Sean O'Hair.

"I maxed that one out, and it turned out good," Stricker said.

His chances to win on Labor Day are equally tenuous.

Stricker has the goods; he already has won twice this year and finished one shot behind last week at The Barclays. Even so, there are two other guys tied for the lead who have won this year, and simply too many players within range for anyone to get a handle on how Monday will shake out at the TPC Boston.

O'Hair overcame a scratchy start with birdies on two of the last three holes for a 70. Goosen, a two-time U.S. Open champion, had a chance to take the outright lead until a chunky bunker shot that kept him from getting up-and-down for birdie at the par-5 18th. He settled for a 68 to join the other leaders at 13-under 200.

"I needed a day like this today to get back into it," Stricker said.

Just about everyone else—except Tiger Woods—apparently had the same idea.

Woods struggled from the opening shot. He hit driver into the woods for a one-shot penalty, didn't make a birdie until the 15th hole and shot 1-over 72. That left him nine shots behind in a tie for 30th. Woods did not speak to reporters, going to the locker room to have his back stretched before heading to the putting green.

The gallery still has a rooting favorite among those trying to win. Padraig Harrington, cheered wildly in a region with a large Irish population, knocked in a long birdie putt at the 18th for a 67 and was among those one shot behind, along with Scott Verplank (68) and Kevin Na (66).

"There's a saying, 'There's 5 million people in Ireland and 40 million in the States,' and I think those 40 million people live in Boston," Harrington said. "There's great support here. When you get people supporting you, you do feed off it and try to go with it, and it's certainly helped me over the last three days."

Jim Furyk, who had a share of the 36-hole lead with O'Hair, slumped to a 73 yet still was in the hunt. He was at 10-under 203.

No one stands out as the obvious favorite. All of them share one goal.

"You know someone is going to shoot a good score tomorrow," Kevin Sutherland said after a 69 that put him in the group two shots behind. "You just need to be the guy who does it."

Stricker had a chance to take over the top spot from Woods in the FedEx Cup last week in The Barclays until he missed a 10-foot par putt on the final hole that would have forced a playoff with Heath Slocum.

He'll get another opportunity Monday, in small part to his bold play on the 18th.

"The only thing I had going for me is I had a little bit of a downhill lie that would keep the ball down a little bit," Stricker said. "I hit it solid and it landed three or four paces short and just got up there very nicely."

The top 70 advance to the third round of the PGA Tour Playoffs next week in Chicago, and Stricker has the best chance to overtake Woods atop the FedEx Cup standings. All he cares about is this week, which might be even more confusing than the points-based cup.

The winner can come from just about anywhere.

"I don't expect guys like Stricker and Harrington and Goosen... to fall backwards, that's for sure," O'Hair said. "I don't know how low you're going to have to go, but you're still going to have to have a nice round of golf. If I go out there and focus on me and get comfortable on the first tee and not take four or five holes to get going, I should be right there at the end."

That wasn't the case Sunday in sunshine and a mild breeze that was strong enough for players to continuously toss blades of grass in the air to figure out which way it was blowing.

O'Hair took three shots from 20 feet just short of the green at No. 1, hooked his tee shot on the par-3 third for another bogey and chopped up the par-5 seventh, quickly falling out of contention. That was his last bogey, however, and he had a strong finishing kick.

Even a player like Geoff Ogilvy, who birdied his last two holes for a 68 to finish four shots behind, was not ruling himself out. The four shots is not the issue. Perhaps a larger obstacle is the 12 guys in front of him.

"It's the people," Ogilvy said. "Six back and second place is probably better than being four back and in 20th place."

The wind and firm greens made this the toughest day yet. Even after the cut was made (weeding out players not at their best), the average score was at 71.15, the first time all week it has played over par.

Even so, 29 players broke par.

"The guys managed to get it in the hole somehow," Goosen said. "I'm happy to be on top of the leaderboard, and I hope for a good tomorrow and see where we stand."

IT&E extends winning run, cools off Firedawgs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The pacesetter and tailender met in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League on Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and as expected the league-leading IT&E walloped Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighters, 72-57.

After a slow start, Ryan Sanciangco and Poland Yamada brought life to IT&E's game in the second half en route to an easy win. It was IT&E's sixth victory in as many games, widening its lead to three matches against Commonwealth Health Center.

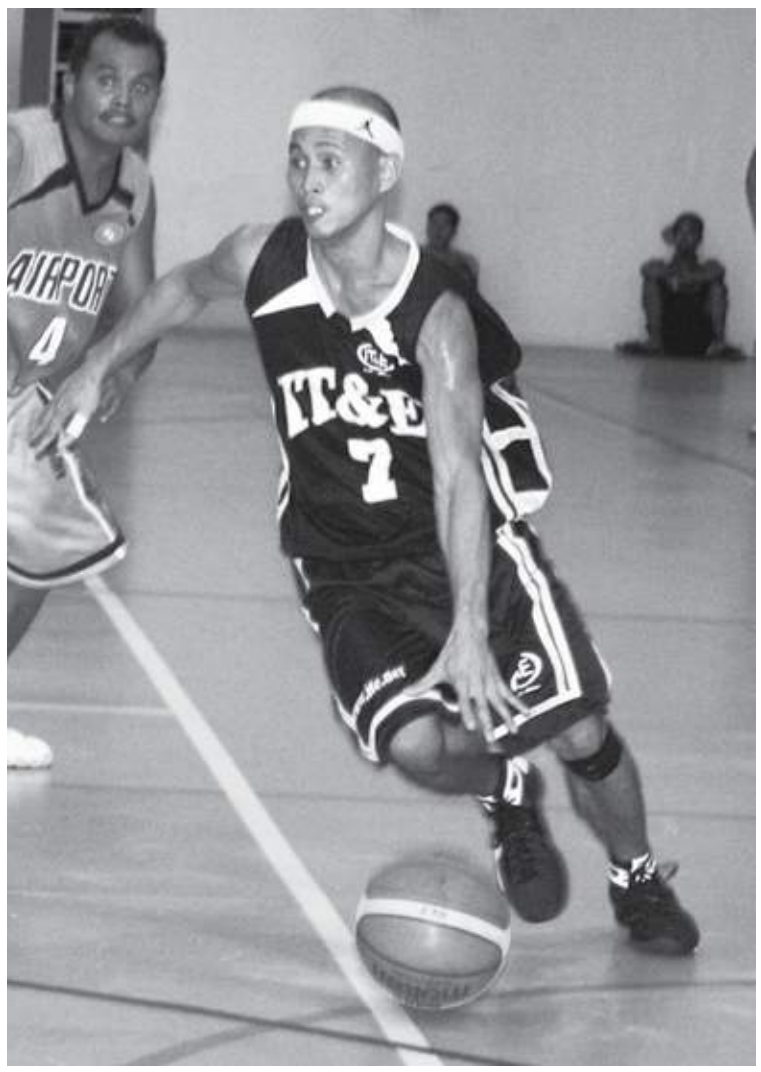
CHC was supposed to play Tinian in the second game of Friday's double-header, but problems with the 24-shot clock forced organizers to call off the game.

The shot clock began malfunctioning in the last three minutes of the IT&E and ARFF game and organizers went on to use a manual stop watch just to complete the match.

With Jeff Quitugua on fire for the Firedawgs, ARFF surprisingly took a 21-16 lead after the first period. Quitugua, who finished with 30 points, had 10 in that period.

However, Sanciangco and Yamada took the cudgels in the second quarter, allowing IT&E to grab the lead at halftime, 39-31.

At the start of the second half, Quitugua again anchored ARFF's offense and drew a bit of help from Jerome Reyes and Frank Robert to move the Firedawgs within five, 48-53, entering the final canto.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E's Elmer Esdrelon, seen here dribbling past a CPA-Accounting player, scored nine points in the their 72-57 win over ARFF on Friday in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

However, IT&E's much deeper bench went to work in the fourth period to support Yamada and Sanciangco and gave the team a double-digit winning margin.

Sanciangco, who made the winning basket in IT&E's 58-56 win over CPA-Accounting on Wednesday, finished with 16 points, while Yamada chipped in 15. Bruce Berline added 13, Jomary Tumaquip had 11, and Elmer Esdrelon contributed nine.

The Firedawgs had only five players making it to the scoreboard and only Quitugua tallied double figures, dropping ARFF to a 0-6 record.

The 12-team league took a break yesterday in observance of Labor Day and action will resume tomorrow with two scheduled games.

In the first match, the inconsistent and McGraw Hill-supported Public School System will take on NTT Docomo, while in the second game, the Firedawgs will aim to snap its six-game losing skid against Micronesian Brokers, Inc.

PSS holds a 3-3 record, while Docomo has a 2-1 slate. MBI lost its previous game against Bank of Guam and is hoping to nail its fourth win in six matches.

Docomo was to square off against Hyatt on Saturday, but the game was called off to give way to a ping-pong tournament.

IT&E 72 – Sanciangco 16, Yamada 15, Berline 13, Tumaquip 11, Esdrelon 9, Ruszala 4, Renguul 4, De Leon 3

ARFF 57 – Quitugua 30, Reyes 8 , Robert 8, Iramik 7, Cepeda 6

Scoring by quarters: 16-21, 39-31, 53-48, 72-57.

SIXERS

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miscues in the erratic first half, resulting to a 24-all score at halftime.

The error-dominated first half was slowed down by officials' timeouts, as referees had to wipe the wet floor on several occasions to prevent accidents.

Things became better for the Sixers in the second half, as Ada began finding his mark and provided the needed baskets that lifted his team to a five-point win.

Ada finished with 13 points, while Matt Duenas chipped in nine. Novo Pepito, Ian Benavente, and Nathan Flores were the three other Sixers who scored more than a field goal against the Saints. Pepito made seven markers, while Benavente and Flores combined for 10 markers.

Luizi Reyes led the Saints with 16 points and the rest of his teammates were held to no more than one field goal each. The Saints absorbed their second loss in as many games, joining the Celtics, Young 670 Rollers, Hi-Five, and Ol'Aces at the bottom of the team standings.

Meanwhile, Week 3 of the Rotary caging started last night with Rollers 1 taking on the G-Stars. Today, the Sparks will collide against the Celtics. On Wednesday, the Saints will duel Ol'ACes, while Thursday's double-header will have 670 Rollers 2 meeting the Sonics in the first game and the Runnin' Rebels facing the Sixers in the second match. Friday's match will have Hi-Five battling the Young 670 Rollers 3.

Sixers 44–Ada 13, M.Duenas 9, Pepito 7, Benavente 6, Flores 4, Salas 2, E.Duenas 1

Saints 39 – L. Reyes 16, Tudela 5, Iglesias 5, Galarse 3, Brennan 3, Pangelinan 2, Deleon Guerrero 2, D.Reyes 1

Scoring by halves: 24-24, 44-39.

FITIAL

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Leeroy Sablan, Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo, "Kill" Bill Saures, Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse, and Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan.

Balbin will go up against Guam's Hosea "Killa B" Ware in the 170-lb. division, Charley will take on Guam's Micah Tobias in the 145-lb. category, while Leeroy Sablan will duel Rob Washington, also of Guam, in the 155-lb. weight class.

Teregeyo, for his part, will trade blows and grapple with the U.S.'s J.J. Ambrose in the 180-lb. division, while Saures will fight Brazilian Danelo Velefort in the 185-lb. category.

Jesse and Giovanni Sablan, for their part, will square off against local MMA talents Brian "Shotgun" Howard and Kyle "Boom" Reyes in the 155-lb. and 145-lb. divisions, respectively.

Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said he worked closely with PXC matchmaker and event coordinator Ken "Kensanity" San Nicolas the past few weeks to find local talent to compete against the top fighters from Guam and elsewhere in the U.S. territory's premier MMA event.

"I received a call from Mr. Eli Monge (PXC frontman) in July before our Trench Warz event asking me to put together a group of fighters in various weight classes that are experienced combatants and have established themselves as worthy opponents in the MMA scene. All these fighters have fought in Guam before and all of them have fought in the highest level of MMA competition here on Saipan as well against Guam and other countries. So Eli had me work with Ken San Nicolas and all the matches came to fruition," he said.

Established in 2003, PXC has hosted dozens of MMA events in the Pacific Region and looks to continue its expansion into the international fight scene.

Initially founded to provide a showcase for local athletes in the sport of MMA, PXC has evolved into a global proving ground for some of Asia and the Pacific's up-and-coming MMA talent. PXC has been featured on publications like *Grappling the Magazine* and notable websites such as www.sherdog.com and www.mmaweekly.com.

Until the recent explosion of the UFC on cable television, PXC has sold more tickets per capita than any other event in the United States. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	87	50	.635	–
Boston	79	57	.581	7 1/2
Tampa Bay	72	64	.529	14 1/2
Toronto	61	75	.449	25 1/2
Baltimore	56	81	.409	31

Central Division

Detroit	75	61	.551	–
Minnesota	68	68	.500	7
Chicago	68	70	.493	8
Cleveland	60	76	.441	15
Kansas City	51	85	.375	24

West Division

Los Angeles	81	54	.600	–
Texas	76	60	.559	5 1/2
Seattle	72	66	.522	10 1/2
Oakland	61	76	.445	21

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	77	57	.575	–
Florida	72	65	.526	6 1/2
Atlanta	70	67	.511	8 1/2
New York	62	75	.453	16 1/2
Washington	47	90	.343	31 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	81	57	.587	–
Chicago	68	67	.504	11 1/2
Houston	66	70	.485	14
Milwaukee	66	70	.485	14
Cincinnati	63	73	.463	17
Pittsburgh	54	81	.400	25 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	81	57	.587	–
Colorado	77	60	.562	3 1/2
San Francisco	75	62	.547	5 1/2
Arizona	61	77	.442	20
San Diego	61	77	.442	20

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 4, Chicago Cubs 2
Cincinnati 4, Atlanta 2, 12 innings
Washington 5, Florida 4
Pittsburgh 6, St. Louis 5
Houston 4, Philadelphia 3
Milwaukee 2, San Francisco 1, 12 innings
Colorado 13, Arizona 5
San Diego 4, L.A. Dodgers 3
Cleveland 3, Minnesota 1
Toronto 14, N.Y. Yankees 8
Baltimore 7, Texas 0
Detroit 5, Tampa Bay 3
Boston 6, Chicago White Sox 1
L.A. Angels 7, Kansas City 2
Oakland 5, Seattle 2

DEUTSCHE BANK CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

NORTON, Massachussets (AP)– Scores Saturday from the $7.5 million Deutsche Bank Championship at the 7,202-yard, par-71 TPC Boston course:

THIRD ROUND

Steve Stricker	63-72-65	200
Retief Goosen	65-67-68	200
Sean O'Hair	66-64-70	200
Kevin Na	69-66-66	201
Padraig Harrington	67-67-67	201
Scott Verplank	65-68-68	201
Jerry Kelly	66-69-67	202
Kevin Sutherland	68-65-69	202
Jason Dufner	66-69-68	203
John Senden	69-64-70	203
Dustin Johnson	68-65-70	203
Jim Furyk	63-67-73	203
Matt Kuchar	65-71-68	204
Angel Cabrera	65-69-70	204
Geoff Ogilvy	66-68-70	204
Marc Leishman	70-62-72	204
Mark Wilson	70-69-66	205
Jeff Overton	69-66-70	205
Mike Weir	68-65-72	205
Justin Leonard	65-68-72	205
Zach Johnson	68-71-67	206
Jason Day	68-66-72	206
Bill Haas	69-66-72	207
Charlie Wi	71-64-72	207
Anthony Kim	71-70-67	208
Hunter Mahan	73-66-69	208
Charley Hoffman	69-69-70	208
Charles Howell III	68-69-71	208
Bryce Molder	67-69-72	208
Sergio Garcia	70-71-68	209
Stephen Ames	67-73-69	209
Jason Bohn	73-67-69	209
Mathew Goggin	71-69-69	209
Scott McCarron	70-70-69	209
Vijay Singh	67-72-70	209
Steve Marino	70-68-71	209
Kevin Streelman	70-68-71	209
Troy Matteson	66-71-72	209
Lucas Glover	69-68-72	209
Tiger Woods	70-67-72	209
Michael Letzig	68-68-73	209
David Toms	67-69-73	209
Kenny Perry	69-72-69	210
Y.E. Yang	71-70-69	210
Camilo Villegas	70-69-71	210
Brett Quigley	70-69-71	210
Bubba Watson	68-71-71	210
J.B. Holmes	72-67-71	210
Davis Love III	69-70-71	210
Brian Gay	70-67-73	210
Brian Davis	67-70-73	210
Scott Piercy	67-69-74	210
Pat Perez	70-65-75	210
Nick Watney	71-69-71	211
Brandt Snedeker	70-70-71	211
Phil Mickelson	71-68-72	211
Daniel Chopra	67-71-73	211
Greg Owen	69-69-73	211
Woody Austin	67-70-74	211
Greg Chalmers	67-70-74	211
Boo Weekley	68-69-74	211
Jonathan Byrd	67-74-71	212
Bob Estes	70-71-71	212
D.A. Points	69-70-73	212
Luke Donald	69-72-72	213
J.J. Henry	72-68-74	214
Briny Baird	73-67-74	214
Ryuji Imada	74-66-75	215
Richard S. Johnson	68-72-75	215
Fredrik Jacobson	70-68-77	215
Justin Rose	69-70-77	216
D.J. Trahan	71-70-76	217
Ben Crane	73-68-78	219

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

GOVT/BIZ STANDINGS

IT&E	6	0
CHC	3	1
MBI	3	2
PSS	3	3
Hyatt	2	0
Docomo	2	1
Tinian	2	1
DCCA	2	2
BOG	3	4
Customs	1	2
CPA	0	5
ARFF	0	6

ROTARY STANDINGS

Sparks	2	0
Sonics	2	0
G-Stars	2	0
Runnin' Rebels	2	0
Sixers	2	0
Rollers 1	1	1
670 Rollers 2	1	1
Saints	0	2
Celtics	0	2
Ol'Aces	0	2
Young 670 Rollers 3	0	2
Hi-5	0	2

TAIWAN

From Page 28

the CNMI coach said.

"Then the tactical part should include both offense and defense," Kambe said.

The CNMI will not be competing in any off-island tournaments until next year when Saipan hosts the Marianas Football Cup 2010.

For the Marianas Cup and other future tournaments, Kambe will be scouting for new players.

"We have to scout and train some young players in the 15 to 18 age group," he said.

12th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Charlie Cheng of Tinian has his eyes on the ball during a singles match against Saipan's Budhi Gurung.

Saipan's Steve Lim serves to Tinian's Charlie Cheng.

Korean Ping-Pong Association's Iek Khyun Ahn returns to Tinian's Alfred Yue.

Singles third placer Jean Shi of Saipan in action against Tinian's Bright Liu.

Saipan's Young Soon Roh returns to Tinian's Su Yong Dong.

Tinian's Bright Liu smiles for the camera before playing against Jean Shi.

Korean Ping-Pong Association's Kim Gi Jo serves against Robin Lu of Tinian during their singles game in the 12th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan's Budhi Gurung serves against Tinian's Luke Lu.

Tinian's Alfred Yue bends forward to return the ball to Iek Khyun Ahn during a warm-up game.

Singles champion Mark Ma of Tinian returns to MATTA president Steve Lim.

New mother Clijsters beats Venus

A half-hour after getting past Venus Williams in a three-set tussle at the U.S. Open, Kim Clijsters had her hands full again.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

IT&E extends winning run, cools off Firedawgs

The pacesetter and tailender met in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League on Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and as expected the league-leading IT&E walloped Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighters, 72-57.

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Competition date for 2010 Micro Games changed

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The start of the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau has been moved about two weeks later from the original date due to the unavailability of accommodation facilities.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White announced that the Micro Games will now run from Aug. 1 to 10 instead of from July 11 to 20 during the NMASA monthly meeting last Thursday.

White said the opening of classes in Palau began late and will finish in the last week of July next year, thus schools, which will be used to accommodate off-island delegates, will only be available in August.

Next year's Micro Game is offering 15 sports, namely baseball, lawn tennis, swimming, triathlon, athletics, basketball, Micro All-Around, outrigger canoe, spearfishing, fast-pitch softball, table tennis, weightlifting, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, and wrestling.

Palau is the alternate host of the seventh edition of the quadrennial event after the Marshall Islands, which won the bidding in 2006, pulled out due to lack of facilities.

This will be the second time since 1998 that Palau will host the Micronesian Games.

The 2006 Micronesian Games was held on Saipan with Guam taking home the overall championships.

The CNMI's nearest neighbor won 96 medals (51 gold, 27 silver and 18 bronze), while the Commonwealth finished second with its 34-33-31 gold-silver-bronze tally. Palau came up in third place (27-16-21), followed by Chuuk (6-10-12), Pohnpei (5-15-17), Kiribati (5-7-5), the Marshall Islands (3-5-12), Kosrae (3-3-2), and Yap (2-7-3).

The Nina Mosley-led CNMI Swimming Team gave the Commonwealth the most medals with 46. Athletics bagged the second most medals for the CNMI with 15.

White

In the much anticipated baseball competition, the Commonwealth's sluggers took the gold medal after stunning Guam in the finals, 3-2.

Baseball, along six other sports, had expressed its interest to join next year's Micronesian Games. Others on the list are basketball, table tennis, canoe, athletics, swimming, and lawn tennis. Volleyball [indoor and beach volleyball] has yet to submit a letter of intent to NMASA.

Various sports association also named their respective coaches and submitted an outline of the process for the selection of athletes for the Micro Games.

Fitial

Fitial to lead Saipan contingent to PXC 18

No less than Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial will spearhead the elite seven-man Saipan delegation to Pacific Xtreme Combat 18: Dead Game 2 set on Sept. 19 at the University of Guam Field House.

Fresh from his technical knockout win over former PXC heavyweight champion Manny "The Enforcer" Chong in Trench Warz X: Collision last July 31, the Marianas Elite fighter will be taking on Guam's Toby "Big Tobz" Mesa in PXC 18.

Mesa himself is coming off an impressive win over Trench Tech's Slade "The Rage" Adelbai, which saw the Team Psycho MMA combatant surprise the Palauan fighter with a flurry of punches in the third round.

Joining Fitial in the trip to Guam are Arnold "The Killer B" Balbin, Maitai "The Charger" Charlie,

See FITIAL on Page 26

Taiwan experience an eye-opener for Kambe

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The stint in the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition in Tainan City, Taiwan, gave CNMI coach Sugao Kambe a clear picture on what to work on with the Commonwealth's female strikers.

The CNMI Women's Football Team lost all four games in the EAFF tournament and scored only once.

"We could have scored more points if we were more aggressive on offense. We spent a lot of time on defense. We could have gone to our opponent's field a few times and made some shots," Kambe said.

The Commonwealth's lone goal came against Guam with Carrie Knight finding the back of the net in the first half. In the last three games, the CNMI had shutouts. Hong Kong beat the CNMI by 10, DPR Korea won by 19, and host Chinese-Taipei prevailed by 17.

"Our best game was against Guam, as we were able to score. However, in the last three games, they showed little improvement," Kambe said.

WWW. EAFF.COM

The CNMI's Carrey Knight, right, tries to steal the ball from Guam's Lourdes Fleming during the first game in the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition in Tainan City, Taiwan, late last month.

Kambe, who is also the technical director of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, added the CNMI female strikers' struggles in Taiwan was understandable, as it was their first international tournament.

"Our tactical, physical, and technical skills were a few levels lowers that [of] our opponents, who had been to international tournaments several times. These things were expected as we were first-timers and the important thing is we learned from this tournament," Kambe said.

"In international tournaments, it is very important to be prepared mentally and show fighting spirit, willingness, and toughness," he added.

Besides working on the CNMI female strikers' mental toughness, Kambe in the next training sessions will also focus on improving their technical skills.

"Technical skills include kicking the ball and this does not mean only kicking the ball itself, but kicking it far. It also means kicking and passing the ball under pressure and with good distance and accuracy,"

See TAIWAN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sixers' Joe Ada tries to regain the ball during their game in the Rotary caging on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Sixers force 5-way tie for Rotary lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Sixers created a logjam for the lead in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball after edging the Chalan Kanoa Saints, 44-39, on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory was the second in as many games for the Sixers, putting them in a tie for first place with Kagman Sparks, G-Stars, Runnin' Rebels, and the Sonics.

The win was almost forfeited against the Sixers, as coach Ray Duenas was a few minutes late for the game. Rotary caging rules do not allow players to play without a coach or a representative from the team. In the absence of the coach, the team must have a representative who should be in the 18-and-above age group.

With the Sixers spending warm-up time waiting for their coach instead of doing drills, they struggled at the start of the game.

Joe Ada committed a couple of errors, as he fell on the slippery floor several times. The Saints also had their share of

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